

THE
Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MASS., FEBRUARY, 1885.

No. 1.

THE SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.

(*Accipiter fuscus.*)

While collecting eggs in Plastow, N. H., May 30, 1883; I noticed in a pine tree about 30 ft. from the ground what at first sight appeared to be an old Crow's nest; but on a closer examination, I perceived a bird's tail projecting over the edge of the nest; procuring a club I pounded the tree vigorously but without any result, so I proceeded to climb up the tree, when within a few feet of the nest the occupant flew off, and proved to be a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The nest was a bulky affair, composed of coarse sticks, lined inside with somewhat finer ones. It was but slightly hollowed, and contained three eggs, which I found to be quite fresh. One thing about them struck me as being somewhat peculiar, and that was that the eggs were placed in a row across the nest, with the small ends all the same way. The eggs were bluish, white-spotted and blotched irregularly with dark chocolate-brown. No. 1 had numerous spots at the large end forming a circle. No. 2 had the entire surface dotted over, thickest at the large end. No. 3 was thinly spotted, and had a large patch of brown at the smaller end.

J. A.

West Newbury, Mass.

We give a premium for every subscription sent in this month; send now and secure one.

A MELANIC ROBIN.

On the morning of May 13, 1881, when I turned the cattle into the pasture, I saw a bird standing on the stone wall at a distance of about two yards, which at first sight I supposed to be a rather small specimen of the Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus purpureus*). The entrance of the cattle startled the bird, and I was a little surprised to recognize in its flight the movements of the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Flying across the field in a diagonal line, this bird alighted on another wall in the manner very common to robins. By making half a revolution horizontally, the bird flew in a northeasterly direction, and immediately before its feet touched the wall, it turned and was heading towards the northwest. The bird allowed a near approach, and I heard distinctly the morning song of the Robin coming from its throat, and observed with equal distinctness that it stood in the typical music attitude of the *Turdus migratorius*. I listened to the cheery strain as it was several times repeated; then the bird flew into an apple-tree and, suddenly, one of those spasmodic vociferations, accompanied by the no less spasmodic evolution of half a dozen robins, occurred, in which the Black Robin took a conspicuous part; and after this convulsive affair, the purple-flashing Melanic *turdus*, accompanied by a female of usual coloration, flew away towards the south.

ELISHA SLADE,
Somerset, Mass.

DIRECTIONS FOR BLOWING EGGS.

For all small eggs you should use the smallest size drill. First make a hole in the egg with a fine needle, then insert the drill and turn it rapidly around between the forefinger and thumb. Do not try to force it through the egg, or you are liable to break it, but let it work its way slowly; for very small or fragile eggs use a blow-pipe, but for larger ones (or even small ones if not too thin shelled) use a syringe, and you can blow the contents in a short time, and with very little trouble. It is very advisable to hold the egg over a basin of water, as they are less liable to break in case you should chance to drop one. I have blown the eggs of a great many birds in this way, such as the Black-capped Chickadee, Black and White Creeper etc., without breaking one. After they are blown they should be rinsed thoroughly and allowed to dry before putting them back into the cabinet, for if you keep them on sand it is very liable to adhere to the surface, and cause trouble to remove it.

One thing to guard against is crushing the egg between your fingers. To avoid this hold it by both ends, instead of the sides, as an egg will stand a great deal more pressure that way. Be careful in wiping the egg not to remove the color, by too much rubbing. It is hardly necessary to say that all eggs should be side blown, even if you do not have an egg drill or blowpipe. Make the holes in the side of the egg, the one nearest the large end, the largest, and you can blow out the contents as well as if you had made a hole in each end.

Besides the eggs can be measured

more accurately than they could with the holes in the ends of the egg. Should the egg be partly hatched and contain an embryo, drill a larger hole than you would if it were fresh, then take a fish hook, heat it red hot, and straighten it out, then you draw out the contents of the egg with it quite easily. Before laying away, the eggs should be marked with a soft lead pencil.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.

On the 11th of June, 1884, I found the nest of the species. It was placed in the a forked twig of a small bush about four feet from the ground. It was composed of grass, wool and the fine roots and tendrils of various plants, and lined with horsehair. The eggs were four in number, greenish white, finely dotted with brown and lilac, somewhat thicker at the large end.

C. A.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE YOUNG OOLOGIST,

Published by FRANK H. LATIN, Gaines N. Y. Is the most practical and instructive paper we have seen, that is devoted to Ornithology and Oology. The publisher also carries a large supply of birds' eggs; and all Naturalists' supplies.

We have received a copy of the Oologist's Handbook issued by Frank H. Latin, which besides containing much useful information also contains Ridgways, Nomenclature of N. A. birds, and the numbers used by Baird and Coues. It also gives the average number of eggs in a set of the different birds and a price list of Naturalist supplies.

THE YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST.

The Young Ornithologist.

Edited and published monthly by ARTHUR A. CHILD, Boston, Mass.

We solicit correspondence on all subjects of Ornithology and Oology.

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1 page.....	5.00	9.50	14.00

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THE YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST,

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As we wish to obtain a large circulation for our paper, we will give 15 cents worth of the following eggs your selection for every new subscriber you may send us. To avail yourself of this offer you must be a subscriber; If you are not, you can send in your subscription with any new *subscribers* procured.

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Medicine or objectionable advertisements will not be inserted in the YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST. To all editors who give us a notice and send us a marked copy of the same, we will send the Young Ornithologist six months free.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

We will insert brief notices in this column free to all subscribers for three months. To others, 15 cents per 30 words. No regular advertisements inserted in this column at any price.

WANTED, the following Eggs. Will give half catalogue rates (except for large lots) in exchange :

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I will give 10 different Foreign stamps, two different Nova Scotia, or an unused New Granada, for the 1 cent, Interior 7 or 12 Treasury or the 24 cent War. Other rare stamps for exchange. Send lists. Address OSCAR C. CHILD, Needham, Mass.

I have 170 end blown birds eggs, worth at least \$10.00, to exchange for a good silver watch; new or in fine condition, of equal value. Have also a fine collection of stamps, 600 varieties to exchange.

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JOHN S. APPLETON, Needham, Mass.

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A NEW THING!

THE OOLOGIST'S DIRECTORY.

Messrs. DAVIS & BAKER propose to publish an Oolo-
gist's Directory to contain the names and addresses of
one thousand collectors of birds' eggs, skins, nests, etc.,
etc., to be published in January. We will insert any
collector's name and address in the directory and send
him a copy when published, and make him a present of
a genuine alligator's egg, all for 3 dimes and 4 one-cent
stamps for postage. If you have an alligator's egg and
do not wish another, we will insert your name and ad-
dress for 2 dimes and 1 one-cent stamp, or if you will
forward us your name and address on a postal card and
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insert your name and address in the directory. Address,

DAVIS & BAKER,
North Granville, N. Y.

Send for club rates and rates of advertising.

INDUCEMENTS FOR SENDING NAMES.

To the persons sending us the most names and ad-
dresses for the directory before January 10th, we will
give him an African Ostrich egg; next largest list, an
Australian Emu's egg; to the next three persons sending
the next three largest lists, each a Flamingo's egg.

DAVIS & BAKER.

THE Young Ornithologist.

Vol. I.

BOSTON, MAY, 1885.

No. 2.

BREEDING HABITS OF THE BRIDLED TERN.

(Sterna anosthæta.)

By C. J. MAYNARD.

Just to the eastward of Andros Island, one of the Bahamas, on the extreme outer edge of the reef, lie the Grassy Keys. These are three small Islands, the largest of which cannot be above a half mile in length by only a few hundred yards across.

South of these islets lie a large chain of keys known as the Washer-women. There are something like sixty of these islets in all, including the smallest sizes, for they vary in area from the smallest point of jagged rock, wave-washed during winter storms, and in summer affording a scanty breeding ground for small colonies of Least Terns, to high rocky keys, embracing ten or twelve acres.

As remarked, these Keys rise from one reef which borders Andros; and consequently they lie directly on the margin of that remarkable estuary of deep water that nearly divides the great Bahama Banks in twain, which is known as the Tongue of Ocean.

This group of islands stretches from the Grassy Keys southward for some thirty or forty miles, thus extending far beyond the southern extremity of Andros; consequently the lower islets are in a very exposed

situation, and as the tide sets directly across them from east to west, and *vice versa* during ebb and flow, causing a heavy sea, even during comparatively calm weather, they are considered quite dangerous, and, with the exception of a few spongers who occasionally land on them, are seldom visited by man.

We passed the night of May 5th, 1884, in lying at anchor in our little vessel under one of the Grassy Keys; but early the next morning found us beating down the long stretch of Washer-women Keys. In tacking, we came close to several of the larger islets; near enough to see the Sooty and Noddy Terns sitting on their nests, but refrained from landing, as we were desirous of reaching the southmost of the line. At last the man at the masthead reported that there was no land in sight beyond the Key which we then had under our lee; and satisfying myself by ascending the ratlines that there was nothing in the shape of land between us and Cuba, which would not then have been but fifty miles away, I ordered the skipper to haul in for the last Washer-women Key, and in a few minutes we were lying in a little harbor under the high rocky cliffs.

In a moment our faithful crew had the boat over the side, and, propelled by stout arms, we soon landed on the surf-beaten rocks. As I stepped ashore a cloud of birds, consist-

ing of Frigate Birds; Sandwich, Royal, Sooty, Noddy, and Bridled Terns, rose with deafening clamor from the naked top of the rocky key.

A hasty survey of the place soon convinced me that the numerous birds were not as yet breeding, when my attention was attracted by my dog, who always accompanied me. She was pointing at a cavity beneath a huge rocky slab. As I approached, a Bridled Tern scrambled out, dashed past the dog, and with a scream, rose into the air only to fall dead on the rocks, for, suspecting that she was breeding, I shot her, and stooping down, guided by my dog's nose, I soon discovered her single egg. This was my first specimen, but later, both on the more northern Washerwomen, on Golden Key, and on the Ship Channel Keys, I found several other eggs. The time of breeding with this species, when undisturbed, is about the middle of May, and the eggs are invariably deposited under rocky slabs, often so far under that they could not be reached with our arms. Unlike the Sooty and Noddy Terns, this species is quite shy, and only in one or two instances was I enabled to capture the bird on the nest. Then I came upon the bird suddenly, without its having been aware of my approach.

The eggs of the Bridled Tern are on an average smaller than those of the Sooty, and are not usually as pinkish nor as coarsely spotted, but vary somewhat in this respect. Out of some twenty specimens which I collected, only four or five were as large as the smallest Sooty, and about the same number were coarsely spot-

ted, and only two or three were of the decidedly pinkish shade seen in the ground color of the Sooty Tern.

The Bridled Terns are not uncommon on the isolated outer Keys of the Bahamas, but, owing to the comparatively inaccessible character of the rocky islets which they frequent, the eggs will probably never be common in collections.

THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICA- DEE.

(*Parus atricapellus.*)

This little bird is a great favorite with me, the reason being that it is so easily watched and studied, and another reason is that it can be observed and its habits studied all through the cold winter months. We have Jays, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, and a few others that stay with us all winter, but they are seldom seen, with the exception of the Jays.

The Chickadees may be seen about the house and in the woods almost anywhere that it can find food, nearly every day all winter whether stormy or pleasant. I have watched them a great many times from a window in the house, having placed a piece of meat near by for them to feed upon.

I have noticed that two birds never seem to be on the same piece of meat at the same time; they seem to understand each other, for I have seen two birds, one feeding on the meat and the other on a tree nearby, start at the same instant and change places. They do not seem disposed to quarrel much, though they evidently think that they have a right to stay and eat until they have had their fill. By

having a little patience they can be taught to eat out of one's hand. Their nest is usually placed in a hole in a dead limb or stump; an apple or pine tree seems to be their favorite nesting place. Their nest is very thick, and soft, lined inside with feathers. They generally lay from six to nine eggs, they are very pretty, ground color white, thickly spotted with fine reddish-brown spots somewhat thicker at the larger end. Their eggs may be looked for as soon as the first week in May.

C. W. SWALLOW, Tyngsboro, Mass.

THE CAT BIRD.

In the pleasant month of May, comes to me one of the dearest birds of summer, the cat bird, with its lovely modest coat of drab and black. Some writer has called its dress aristocratic, and I know of no word that can better describe it. A pair built their nest in a large lilac bush at the southwest corner of the house, and seemed quite tame. While the lilacs were in blossom, filling the air with fragrance, the female sat upon her eggs; and every evening at sunset, when the golden sky shone through the leaves, it made a lovely picture, the male bird sitting beside his mate with their little heads turned toward the setting sun, and he singing his evening song. He seemed to imitate almost every other bird. Some notes were particularly sweet and plaintive, perhaps the hour made them seem so to me. After they hatched their young, our cat found the nest and destroyed the little birds. The next year no bird built its nest there, but last spring they

came again; we had no cat, and they were very tame, whenever I went to the door and called them they would come from the thick part of the bush and peep out at me. After the young were fledged, they became more tame than before, and would get quite near me upon a jessamine by an open window while I talked to them. They gave me great pleasure, and I am anxiously waiting for them, but fear they will not build near us, as we have now two kittens.

MARIE L.

THE BLACK AND WHITE CREEPER.

(*Mniotilta varia.*)

The Black and White Creepers are quite common here during the summer, and may be easily recognized by their black and white coloring and by their habit of running up and down the trunks of trees after the manner of the Nathutches and true Creepers. They never seem to run down backward but always keep the head pointed in the direction that they are moving. The Black and White Creepers have several notes and a faint but pleasing warble, which they often utter while searching for insects on the trunks of tree, and old logs and stumps. They doubtless destroy a large number of noxious insects. The nest is built in thick woods, usually on the ground at the foot of a tree or stump. The eggs are nearly elliptical, cream white, thickly dotted with reddish brown intermingled with some faint spots of lilac, some-

what closer together at the larger end, size .65 to .62 x .50 to .55 of an inch, and usually four in a set.

The Black and White Creepers are about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; color above, black and white, a yellow stripe on the crown, and over each eye; throat white, abdomen white, with longitudinal black stripes, two white stripes on the wing, and the two outer tail feathers edged with white, lower tail covert feathers white with black centres; the claws are deeply curved, the hind one is the longest.

T. B., Dover, Mass.

THE ACADIAN OWL.

The Acadian Owl (*Noctale acadica*) or Saw-whet, as it is sometimes called, from its peculiar rasping note, sounding like the filing of a saw, is not unfrequently found here; but is, apparently, not nearly so common as *Scops asio*. It must breed here, as it is a resident, and I have seen the young taken in Orleans County. The male of this pigmy of its race averages some 7.29 length by 19.50 in extent. The female is about an inch longer, and every way larger in proportion. With head proportionately large, round, untufted, and facial disks complete, the adult is fine clear brown above, scapulars and wing coverts marked with white, and an under-surface ring of the same around the back of the head; outside and inside web of primaries, and inside web of the secondaries, white spotted; tail tipped with white, and having several cross line of spots of

the same; space around the bill generally, and above and below the eye white or yellowish-white; top of the head, auriculars and sides of neck streaked with white, and clear white arcs back of the ears; under-parts white, broadly streaked with reddish-brown. Young, more generally dark brown, unspotted, with clear white forehead and eyebrows, and clear reddish-brown under-parts. Slyly nesting in the hole of a tree, the nearly round, pure white eggs, .22 x .96, are laid in April, and the newly hatched young are covered with a reddish down. This pigmy must have a good appetite, for, not long since, an individual was taken in New Jersey the stomach of which contained a whole Flying Squirrel. Habitat, North America, most common, perhaps, in the latitude of New England and Nova Scotia.

From REV. J. H. LANGILLE'S

Our Birds in their Haunts.

All who send 50 cents for a year's subscription before the 10th of June will receive the May and June number free, their subscription beginning with the July number. We give a commission of 15 cents for every new subscriber sent us with 50 cents for a year's subscription.

J. A., Needham, Mass., writes: "On the first of January, 1885, I secured a fine specimen of *Scops asio*, but a short distance from my house, in the hollow limb of an apple tree. I kept it some time, feeding it on mice &c., but as I could not procure a sufficient supply, I sold it to a taxidermist.

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will be issued in this form on the 1st of
each month, and will contain valuable
and interesting information on the
science of which it treats. Many of these
are written especially for us by well
known Ornithologists, and it will also
give articles sent us by our correspond-
ents from all parts of the country. In
short, we shall endeavor to make it an
interesting journal of that most delightful
branch of Natural History, Ornithology.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Will Exchange eggs with all collectors.
Send your lists and I will send mine in re-
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Collectors sending eggs to us, should
pack each one in a separate piece of
cotton, and then fill the box completely
full of the same material. The box
should be made either of wood or tin, and
have the name and address on the outside.

Collectors should save all the empty
tin boxes, such as mustard, pepper
boxes, etc. to send off eggs in. Ci-
gar boxes, whole or sawn in two, are
very convenient for large lots of eggs.
Still another way is to bore a hole in
a piece of wood, line it with cotton,
insert the egg carefully, and then
securely stop up the hole. Small
eggs can be safely sent any distance
in this way.

The best material to keep your eggs
on is sand, particularly crushed quartz.
Cotton, from its elasticity, is apt to
cause the eggs to roll around, and
get cracked against the partitions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

E. D., Milan, Ohio. Can you tell me whether it is the Red-bellied or the Golden-winged Woodpecker that is called a sap-sucker? Is it really true that they do injure the trees?

We would like to have some of our readers answer this query, as we have no positive proof of it.

C. H. E., Townsend, Mass. Please inform me, through your paper, what kind of a hawk this is: Description, —Length about 12 in.; length of wing 10; tail 6 in. above, bluish-gray; part of bill, eyes and legs yellow; tail drab, with dark bars, breast white, spotted and barred with light brown, thigh feathers white, very thickly barred with light brown, under wing feathers barred similarly.

We should judge it to be the Pigeon Hawk (*Æsalon columbarius*).

W. L., of Boston, writes: "I found the nest of a common Pewee last spring, containing five eggs, two of which were spotted. Are they usually so?"

They are not; though they are sometimes found.

H. S., Danvers, Mass. "Can you give me the scientific name of the bird called 'Cherry bird' here?"

It is the Cedar Wax-wing.

H. A. E., Jaffrey, N. H. The Black and White Creeper's egg that you have is worth about 50 cents, if first class.

F. J., Davenport, Ia. The bird you speak of as the 'Butcher-bird' is known as the White-rumped Shrike. We believe that it breeds in your locality.

P. R., Dover, Mass., records some of his discoveries for last year: May 26, I found a nest of the Black-capped Chickadee, containing eight eggs, in a grey birch over 20 feet from ground. They were white, speckled over with reddish brown, and averaged .57 x .47 inch. I had the opportunity previously of watching this pair, while engaged in excavating their nest. May 27. Found a Downy Woodpecker's nest with five pearly white eggs about .74 x .60 in. The next of any importance, was that of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, June 10, in a low bush about 4 ft. from the ground; there were 4 eggs, creamy-white, spotted mostly at the larger end with brown and lilac. Dimensions, 70 x 50. June 15. Found a nest of the Black and White Creeping Warbler. It was on the ground at the foot of a small oak, composed of pieces of bark and leaves, and lined with pine needles; it contained one egg, and three young birds; the egg was evidently unfertile, as I had no difficulty in blowing it. Size, .62 x .50, white, finely dotted with reddish brown. The 20th of June, I secured the nest of the rose-breasted Grossbeak. It was placed in a small sapling, about ten feet up, and was composed of twigs, with a lining of finer ones. It was so loosely constructed that we could see through it in places. There were three bluish-green eggs, spotted with brown, thickest at the larger end.

J. W. Swan, Jr., Newport, R. I., writes:—"While collecting near here last June, as I was walking through an open field, I was attracted by a sound

the note of a Blackbird. On looking in the direction from which it came, I saw a bird the size of a Red and Buff shouldered Blackbird of a jet black color with white shoulders, which gave a pleasing contrast to the uniform blackness of the rest of his body. Not having a gun with me at the time, I was unable to secure it. I did not see but this one, and think it was a straggler from some remote district. Since then I have never seen another one like it.

OUR CLUB RATES.

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Fourth and Fifth—A copy of Oliver Davie's Egg Check List, 60
Sixth to Eighth—Birds' Eggs, worth] .50
Ninth and Tenth—A fine Egg Drill, .20
Tenth to Fifteenth—A year's subscription to Young Ornithologist. .50

The subscriptions must reach us by the 31st of May. The premiums will be forwarded on the 1st of June, and the names of the winners published in the June number. Commence at once. Ours is a comparatively new paper, and there are large numbers of parties who only need to see it, to subscribe.

Address, "THE YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST,"
64 Federal St., Boston, Mass.

We give below a diagram of a popular size of data blank:—

No. Name
 Collector
 Locality
 Date
 No. of Eggs in Set Set Mark
 Identity Incubation
 Nest

It should be filled out as follows, for example; No. 320. Name, Wood Pewee. Collected by E. J. Brown. Locality, Taunton, Mass. Date, June 3. No. of Eggs in Set, 4. Set Mark, 4. Identity, bird seen on nest. Incubation, begun. Nest on the spreading limb of an oak.

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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JUNE, 1885.

No. 3.

THE CRIMSON HOUSE-FINCH;

AND OTHER NOTES.

THIS pretty little bird is found throughout this State in greater or less numbers, but more especially is it found in the southern portion: it is here what the English Sparrow is in the eastern portion of the U. S.,—in fact so numerous has it become of late, that it has become a serious discussion among fruit-men to adopt some means of exterminating to some extent this little feathered tyrant, who delights in a little private repast on fruit-buds and flowers. The crimson House-Finch is an extremely sociable bird, preferring the abodes of men in the vicinity of his nest. In fact, his nest is often constructed under the very eaves of a house, on some protruding cornice, or amongst the vines and shrubbery immediately adjacent to the house. Indeed, there is a nest of this familiar little bird, containing four little sky-blue eggs, spotted on the larger extremity, within a few feet of me now, as I sit writing on the porch to pass away a few idle moments.

This little bird remains with us the whole year, and begins laying about the first of April; however, fresh eggs can be met with as late as the last of June. In the latter case, however, it is probably the second or third litter.

The Lawrence and Greenbacked Goldfinches are near relations of this little bird, though differing materially in plumage and habits.

In this country, the location of the nests of the Lawrence Goldfinch are usually among the dense groves of Blue-Gum or Eucalyptus trees, which abound very plentifully in this locality.

The egg of this Goldfinch is positively white, and not blue, as is often asserted by amateurs. The habits and nest of the Greenbacked Goldfinch resemble those of the Lawrence, but the eggs are of a bluish tinge instead of a pure white. This little bird is especially plentiful in our elevated groves and orchards, where it delights to feed upon the mountain thistle and seeds of numerous small plants.

The fact of these little Goldfinches resembling tame canaries in habits, appearance, etc., to a great extent has led me to try the experiment of domesticating them, but, although having made several attempts, my efforts in this direction have thus far proved futile.

The Crimson House-finch, on the contrary, is very easy to domesticate, and will even go so far as to mate with tame canaries, when confined with them.

A. M. SHIELDS.

Los Angeles, Cal.

THE BLACK-THROATED BUNTING.

This is one of our commonest summer visitants, arriving here just as the leaves are bursting forth; generally about the 1st of May. They are birds of song; often seen on the topmost bough of some tree, or on swaying bush, pouring forth their song. I have often heard them at midnight hours. Their nesting location is low; I never saw a nest over eight feet from the ground. Preparations for nesting begin the 10th of May, and the first set is completed about the 25th. The nest is made of the finest kinds of grasses, and lined with the bushy tops of grass. Four eggs are the usual number, though sometimes five, and in a few instances I have found only three eggs in a set, and incubation well advanced.

The Black-throated Bunting always rears two broods in a season. The location of the first set is out on the prairies and meadows, placed in a clump of weeds from one to six inches from the ground. The young are ready to fly by the 25th of June. The parents then retire to the sloughs and smaller creeks, where a second set is now laid. As they place their nests in thick bushes, one not knowing their habits would pass by the bush and not see any signs of a nest.

Oftentimes I have entered these thickets and seldom failed to get one or more sets. Upon this bird the Cowbird is ever imposing its eggs. In the first set it is a rare occurrence to see a Cowbird's egg, but not so in the last: hardly a nest can be found

that does not contain one or more Cowbird's eggs in with those of the Bunting.

Their eggs are of a beautiful sky-blue color. I have never taken any sets later than Aug. 3d. In the early part of September they depart on their Southern migration, though sometimes a few stragglers are seen as late as the 10th of October.

G. F. B.

Beattie, Kansas.

NESTING OF THE BROWN CREEPER.

(*Certhia familiaris rufa.*)

This diminutive species of our *avifauna* has been observed in our wild woods nearly every month in the year. Its general habitat is the low swampy woodlands where there is an entangling of evergreen with black-ash timber. Here it also selects its nesting place, its usual site being old black-ash stubs where the small flakes of bark have become partly detached from the trunk, and curled up. I have on several occasions, and in different places, seen its nesting place, but only in one instance have I taken its nest with eggs. In the early part of May, 1878, I was out in North Wallace, on the farm where I had previously resided for a number of years, when I observed a pair of these bird busily engaged at nest-building. The place was on the margin of a beaver meadow, and the nesting site between the bark or trunk of a hemlock tree, nearly twenty feet from the ground. The female collected.

and placed in position all the material of the nest, but her partner seemed to think that he was giving her much assistance by following her to and from the nesting place, and running up and around the trees and old logs, where she collected the materials, at the same time warbling his little ditty in a pleasing manner. Rough pieces of cedar bark formed the foundation of the nest, and dry, fibrous, woody matter composed the structure, which was internally lined with hair. Some ten days after I again visited the nesting place, and had some difficulty in reaching it, from the fact that the lower part of the tree was scorched by fire, and the bark peeled of the year before. On getting up to the nest the bird flushed off, and I found that it contained six eggs, which I took, and found on preparing, that they were some incubated; one was broken, the other five are in my collection. The ground color is dull white, with a mottling of bay spots towards the large end, and a slight sprinkling of the same hue on other parts of the surface; in size they are slightly more oblong than those of the Black-cap Chickadee. I might also remark that I noticed this species quite active, during the thaw on the the last days of December and the beginning of the present year; but I did not see or hear the bird again until the 6th of April.

WM. L. KELLS.

Listowel, Canada.

We heard recently of the Red Cross-bill breeding in Massachusetts; this is the second instance of the kind we have known of.

NOTES ON SOME MILWAUKEE BIRDS.

WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.

(*Hirundo bicolor*.)

This bird is one of our commonest summer residents. The first arrival for this year was on April 4th, when one bird was seen. The next day three were seen, and after that they were very abundant. They appear to be mated when they arrive, and are soon seen flying about the bird-houses put out for their reception. This year, one month after the first bird was seen, a pair commenced building in a bird-house on our stable. The male bird takes no part in the building, not even bringing material. He sits on the weather-vane or telegraph wire, guarding his mate, occasionally flying about for exercise or food, or to go to the entrance of his home to inspect the work, never venturing inside, however; but if a strange bird ventures too near, he is soon in hot pursuit; and if they come to blows, or rather pecks, the white-bellied is usually victorious. Last year I saw a fight between two males of this species: one had thrown the other upon its back on the ground, and they were wrestling and fighting like two school-boys. So intent were they with their fighting that I nearly dropped my hat over them before they flew. The victorious bird then gave his opponent a few sharp pecks, but soon gave up the battle. The defeated bird was probably an intruder.

THE PURPLE MARTEN (*Progne sabis*) is not so common as the preceding. They often breed in boxes in the

city but I have not had a chance to study their breeding habits. The cliff and Barn Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons* and *Hirundo erythrogastra*) are very common. I have not found the former breeding here; but about forty miles west they breed abundantly.

THE BANK SWALLOW (*Cotile riparia*) is another very common swallow, breeding on the sandy bluffs and banks of both the river and lake.

THE RED CROSS-BILL (*Loxia curvirostra americana*) is an exceedingly common bird about here. Though I have never found the nest, a flock of young birds was seen near here on May 13th. The adult birds have been seen and shot in large numbers since March 22nd, and I have heard that nests have been found in ice-houses west of here, built upon the saw-dust over the ice.

The NORTHERN WAXWING (*Ampelis garrulus*) was very abundant a year ago this past winter, being seen on all cold days, but last winter none were seen.

CHARLES A. KEELER.

NEST OF GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

While collecting last June, on the 15th inst., with my friend Howard Shields, we were passing through an orchard, when we suddenly heard the cry of the Great-crested Flycatcher, which flew from a hole in an apple tree, then to a dead limb near by. On ascending we found the nest, as we supposed we would, in the hole from which the bird had just flown. It was

about two feet deep, and the bottom was lined with dried grass, cow-hair, &c. I did not notice any snake-skin, which however, I might have overlooked in my haste. It contained three eggs. The nest was not more than twenty rods from a farm-house, and about nine feet from the ground. We did not take the nest, as we supposed we should be able to obtain another set; but on returning a week after we found the birds had deserted. The eggs were a light buff color, covered all over with lines and dashes of brown and purple, and were very fresh. The birds did not make much outcry, but flew to a limb near by and watched the proceedings.

S. CUNNINGHAM,

In 'The Oologist.'

It may not be generally believed that the Crow can be really taught to talk. Several instances, however, have come to our notice which fully demonstrate that there is considerable linguistic ability in this bird, and this may be developed to a surprising extent by proper training. It is not necessary, though it probably is an advantage, to slit the tongue, for the bird if intelligent, will pick up simple sounds in a short time of its own accord.

It would seem that birds have taken to hiring their residences, as we found recently in the nest of a Red-eyed Vireo a piece of an old newspaper on which was printed, "Prices reduced to 1.00, according to location."

The W. Newbury Natural History Club has begun its field work for the season.

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FIELD NOTE-BOOK.

Ernest Ingersoll, in his valuable work, “Bird Nesting,” speaking of the importance of keeping a large book in which to record all field notes, says, “When you come to review this record,—for you will do so with fond pleasure on cold November nights as you sit with your slippered feet against the fender, you will recall the balmy spring days when the notes were fresh, will revive a thousand delightful experiences, and reproduce to the imagination those scenes and sensations of merry woodland and meadow which the ornithologist loves.

More practically, you will be surprised and interested to discover how large are the stores of out-door facts you have stored away; and, by and by, prompted by some companion’s enquiries, discussion with a correspondent, or a paragraph in a newspaper, you will bring memoranda of a kind together, and make a little article for publication. Then if you have written what are really facts, got by fresh observation, others will speedily know of it, and you will begin to taste a morsel of that of which you can never become quite satiated—reputation.”

LARGE SETS OF EGGS.

My first set of American Bittern’s contained seven eggs, the usual number being four, oftener less than more.

A set of White-rumped Shrikes of seven; usual number four or five. I found a nest of this bird, containing five eggs, which I took with the nest. In a short time, the same birds built another nest within a few feet of where the first had been placed. This I took, together with five eggs. A third time they attempted housekeeping; but when four eggs had been laid, some one tore the nest down, and broke the eggs.

A set of Song Sparrow’s which I had in my cabinet consisted of five of the former and two of the Cow Bird’s eggs.

Black-throated Bunting’s eggs, which are generally blue, unspotted, I have seen with five black dots, and have a set which shows faint spots of black.

D. H. E.,

Woburn, Mass.

THE WOOD THRUSH.

Hyllocichla Mustelina.

This species is of all Canadian birds pre-eminent as a songster. Its charming notes are first heard towards the end of April, or in the early part of May, if the weather is mild, and its gladsome lays continue about three months. But after the middle of July, though the bird itself remains in its woodland home until the changeful autumn, with its night frosts and chilly winds, has painted the woodland with many a lovely hue, its tuneful notes are seldom heard. It is on a morning in June that the most delightful songs of this bird are poured forth. Long before the orb of day can be seen in the eastern horizon, while the gray twilight still struggles with the morning mist, and many of the twinkling stars are still visible in the azure vault of heaven, while the air is cool and the night dew lies heavy on the verdant grass, or drops down from the emerald foliage of the trees on the withered leaves, and the woods and fields are beginning to resound with the varied warblings of other members of the feathered race, it is then that the musical talents of this woodland songster are displayed to the best advantage. Perched among the middle branches of some tree or under-wood, he pours forth his charming notes in strains of delightful melody, to the astonishment of the rude backwoodsman, and the delight of the student of nature who may be abroad at that early hour: often in his hurried morning walk is the hardy pioneer made to pause and listen to the en-

rapturing lays of this wildwood musician. Sometimes he suddenly stops in his usual song and gives utterance to other wild notes; but these are most generally heard in the latter part of summer, when his general song is about to cease. During the warm part of the day the song of this bird ceases, that period being devoted to procuring food and to other duties; but as the shades of evening gather in the silent woods, and the sun is sinking in the western sky, a farewell tune is sung to its departing rays. Through the hours of darkness the Wood Thrush is silent, but his song is again renewed at the first dawn of the morning. The length of this bird is between nine and ten inches; its color on the upper parts are cinnamon-brown; beneath it is white, the breast being beautifully spotted with black. It feeds on insects, berries, and occasionally on grain. The female builds her nest on the branch of a tree or in the fork of an underwood, generally not high from the ground. The outside is formed of dry leaves and stalks of weeds, plastered with mud and lined with fine roots. The set of eggs are four, and of a light-green color. This bird is found in the woods or most parts of Ontario, but delights in deep, shady hardwood-timbered lands. It is a shy bird, and rather shuns than approaches the habitations of the pioneer or the borders of civilization, and is seldom seen in the open fields, except in the early spring, when it occasionally visits orchards. It is a very affectionate bird, strongly attached to its nest and young, and when danger menaces will expose itself, and exert

all the arts with which Nature has endowed it in assiduous endeavors to protect them.

W. L. K.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. F., Newton, Mass., says, "One day last spring we heard a rustling noise in the stove in the parlor, in which we have had no fire for several days. We opened the door and out into the room flew a Bluebird, and on our opening a window it rushed out, doubtless glad to regain its liberty.

F. E. S., De Moines, Ia., "What is the correct name for the bird called Flicker?"

Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is the general title, but it has an infinite number of others, over a dozen in all.

C. R. B., Milwaukee, Wis.—Eggs should be marked either with a soft pencil or ink. The former is preferable if the eggs are not handled much, otherwise the numbers are liable to rub off. A soft pencil has to be used, as the greater pressure necessarily used with a hard pencil to make the numbers legible, is liable to break the egg.

R. S., Needham, Mass., informs us that he shot a very large Great Horned Owl at that place on the 12th of last April.

F. L., Dedham, Mass., has found a set of six Blue Jays eggs, which were not spotted nearly so much as usual, and wants to know if eggs are apt to

have less spots and markings when exceeding the usual number.

W. H. S., Chicago, Oliver Davie in his Check List, gives the following description of the Loon's eggs:—"Olivaceous brown, sometimes olivaceous drab, spotted and blotched with very dark brown; almost exactly oval, occasionally very much lengthened; two, or three; 3.50 by 2.25. Nests in the neighborhood of large lakes and ponds, on some low island or in meadows, where the bird collects a large pile of grasses, sods, and weeds in which it forms a hollow about sixteen inches in diameter, and four or five deep."

Andrew Nichols, Jr., Pine Knoll, Mass., writes:—The question is raised as to whether the Red-bellied or the Golden-winged Woodpecker is known by the name of "Sap-sucker." During the winter and spring of 1884 I was living in a small village of Andover, N. H., which is situated about 30 miles north-west of Concord. While there my attention was directed to a series of small holes, placed one above another, which completely encircled many of the apple trees of this region. My first impression as to the cause of the holes was, that they might have been the work of insects not very distant relations of the Borers. Upon careful inquiry, I found out, however, that they were the work of birds which were known to the natives of this region as Sap-suckers, which, translated into scientific lore, were found to be a species of Woodpecker known to ornithologists as the *Sphyrapicus varius*, or Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.

Later in the season I visited the farm of one of the largest fruit growers of Grafton Co. The gentleman after showing me many fine fruit trees, complained of the troublesome nature of the Woodpeckers, and showed me many fine apple trees which had been completely destroyed by them. It was a noticeable fact that the sweet and earlier varieties of trees were the ones that were attacked, while the sour and later varieties in many cases were untouched. I carefully traced these ravages to the species above mentioned. I am also inclined to think, that a rarer species (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) or Red-headed Woodpecker, is guilty of committing the same crime. John Burroughs, in an article written in one of the leading magazines this winter, mentions an interesting instance where he has observed the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker in the act of making the holes in the bark of the Maple tree, in order to drink the sap. I have been acquainted with the (*Colaptes auratus*) Golden-winged Woodpecker all my life, and have met with him at all season of the year, and have yet to learn of any sap-sucking propensities in him, or of an instance where he has caused any great harm. In regard to the Red-bellied Woodpecker, I fail to recognize him under that name, but hope that my friend finds that he is closely related to one of the species that I have described.

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For "The Young Ornithologist."

THE HERMIT AND TAWNY THRUSHES.

(*Hylocichla ustulata pallasi*, and
Hylocichla fuscescens.)

By WM. L. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

In its general appearance and habits, the Hermit differs little from its congener the Wood Thrush. The plumage on the upper parts, and markings on the lower, are similar, and its common notes have much the same sound; but in size it is considerably less, and while the Wood Thrush delights to dwell in high-rolling hard-wood timbered lands, and pour forth its charming music, and construct its nest amid the gloomy shade of thick, leafy underwood, the Hermit prefers low, swampy wood, lands for its summer home, though it equally loves the shade and shelter of low underwood, where it mingles its pleasing, but somewhat melancholy song-notes with the various warblers that also choose such places for their summer homes. The song-notes of Hermit Thrush seem to be an attempt to imitate, in some respects, those of the wood species, and like those of that charming songster, are generally repeated in the calm still evening hours, when the heat of the summer day is over, and the glare of the sunlight is gradually giving place to the gloomy twilight that heralds the approach of night, and when then heard, oft repeating and answered by others of its species in the low, deep, sombre wild-woods, it seems at such times and in such places to impress the seriously minded with melancholy thoughts.

paralleled only by the ditty of the Wood Pewee, and the nocturnal lay of the Whip-poor-Will. This species is a neat, modest and retired bird, and when startled by the approach of man retreats at once into the deepest concealment; and though she generally sits close, yet when flushed from her nest, usually retreats to a safe distance among the deep foliage of the surrounding underwood: but when the young are in the nest her solicitude is keen, and should one of the brood give a note of alarm, both birds at once fly toward, and flutter around the intruder, and uttering notes of the wildest distress, try by all their arts to defend their young.

The nest of this species is usually placed in a low bush, in the root of a fallen tree, or on some fallen brush-wood near the ground, often near water, and generally where there is a thick shade overhead. It is composed of dry stalks of weeds, dead leaves, cemented with a little mud or rotten wood, and lined with rootlets and fine grass. The general set of eggs is four, which are of a blue-green hue; incubation lasts fourteen days, and if their first efforts are successful, it does not appear to nest more than once in the season. I have never seen the eggs after June, and seldom before the advent of that month. If the weather is favorable, this bird generally arrives in this locality about the first week in May, and its song-notes cease in July.

THE TAWNY THRUSH.

This species, called also Wilson's Thrush and the Veree, occupies much the same localities as the Wood and

Hermit Species, but is particularly partial to damp places and the shade and shelter of low thick underwood. There is little variation in the plumage on the upper parts from that of its congener's, but the breast is not potted like those of the above named species, and in size it is still smaller than the Hermit Thrush. Its food seems to be chiefly insects; though it also occasionally feeds on small fruit seeds, and grain, sometimes visiting for that purpose the margins of the fields bordering on the woodland. Its favourite nesting places are among fallen brushwood in low, thick underwood, in clumps of small trees standing in damp spots, and sometimes in old moss-covered logs, in low, swampy grounds. The nest is formed of stalks of dry weeds, old leaves and rootlets, the set of eggs commonly four, though sometimes five and three constitutes the clutch; these are of a blue-green color, and are a little smaller than those of the Hermit. Its common notes are similar to the Hermit, but we have never yet been able to discover that it was possessed of a song, it however sometimes utters a peculiar note somewhat resembling the bleat of a young fawn, for which reason it is probable that it has received the name of "Veree," while that of Wilson's had doubtless been conferred upon it by Wilson, the celebrated American Ornithologist. The Tawny arrives in this locality usually in the first week of May, and begins to nest towards the end of that month, and we have never seen its nest with eggs after the middle of June. When flushed from its nest, it makes a little outcry, but sometimes runs a short distance along

the ground in order to draw the intruder after it. When young are in the nest, it is very solicitous of their safety, and should any of them make an outcry, the distress of the old birds is very notable.

RED-TAILED HAWK.

(*Buteo borealis*.)

This is the hawk commonly called Hen Hawk. A great many of these hawks are trapped in this section during the spring migrations. They come down to a decoy hawk, and endeavor to seize any small animal that is placed on the trenches of the trap.

It was my good fortune to get a set of two eggs of this hawk this spring. A young friend told me he knew where there was a nest; so I started out, May 4, about 5 o'clock, A. M. Getting this young friend to pilot me, we proceeded to a small piece of large woods, and he pointed out the nest on quite a large white pine. As the tree was leaning a little up to the limbs, I did not have much difficulty in reaching the nest without climbers. It was about 45 ft. high, I should think. It contained two eggs, 2.12 x 1.70 in. One was handsomely blotched with chestnut, thickest at the largest end; the other was marked something the same, but the blotches were pale-blue brown. The nest was made of oak twigs mostly. It was about 2 ft. by 1 3-4 across the top. The centre of the nest was quite compact, being filled in with small twigs, chips &c. It was hollowed out but very little, and I should think it might have been an old nest. The old birds were very shy, and kept pretty well out of sight.

C. W. SWALLOW.

The Young Ornithologist.

A Monthly devoted to the promotion of the
Sciences of Ornithology and Oology.

PUBLISHED BY

ARTHUR A. CHILD;

64 Federal Street, - - Boston, Mass.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Foreign Countries,.....65 " "

Sample Copies,.....4 cents each.

RATES OF ADVERTISING

WILL BE SENT ON APPLICATION. SEND COPY

We solicit correspondence and items of interest on birds and their eggs, from all our readers.

We wish to obtain 100 more subscribers this month, and we will give 15 cents in cash, or 20 cents worth of eggs; or instruments such as drills, blowpipes &c., for every new subscriber sent us with 50 cents for a year's subscription to the YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST.

We take pleasure in announcing to our friends that we have made arrangements with Mr. Harry Roland, to write a serial for our paper. It is a narrative of a vacation trip taken by a party of Young Naturalists. Besides being very interesting, it will contain a great deal of information in regard to the Birds, Nests and Eggs, which they saw, and descriptions of those they secured while on their journey and during their sojourn at the place they selected for their summer visit. The first chapter will be issued in our next number, which will also contain an article on Taxidermy, by an expert Taxidermist. Those

desiring to obtain the opening chapters of the above, should subscribe at once, as we shall not send out any more sample copies to those who have already received them.

THE BLACK AND YELLOW WARBLER.

The wild grape, that common and exquisitely graceful ornament of our woods, has completely enshrouded a clump of bushes yonder; and as the leaves are just putting forth, of a reddish-tinted texture, and hoary with down, they seem particularly attractive to the passing crowd of Warblers. There comes from its bowery depths a whistling warble, very liquid and sweet, and so soft that it can be heard only a few feet distant, "whee-cho, whee-cho, whee-cho, whee-cho, whee-cho." After peering cautiously for several minutes, I recognize the quick-flitting movement of the Black and Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica maculosa*). In its Northern breeding-place its song is a loud, clear whistle, which may be imitated by the syllables chee-to, chee-to, chee-to, chee-tee-ee, uttered rapidly and ending with a falling inflection. It is interesting to note how faint and imperfect an attempt at the final and full song in their breeding-grounds is the occasional soft, lisping warble of the Warblers as they pass us in their migrations. Anyone thus studying these soft utterances has the merest prelude to the final burst of joy when the bird reaches its summer home.

I cannot always see maculosa as early as this, but may find it quite common about the 18th or 20th of this genial month of May. Emitting a soft note, *e-a, e-a*, probably a faint

echo of its alarm note in breeding-time—cree-e-e-ee, long drawn and like that of the Vireos—it keeps to the lower story of the woods, and is not at all shy, thus giving me a good opportunity to note its manners, as it is gleaning diligently. As it peers gracefully among the tender foliage, who can fail to admire its gentleness and beauty. Among the smallest (4.25 long and 8.10 in extent) and the most delicately formed of its genus, its color is really brilliant—Bosom a sky-blue, margined on the sides with white; forehead, cheeks, back, wings and tail blackish; throat, rump and under-parts, bright lemon-yellow, the latter heavily blotched and streaked with jet black; lower eyelids, wing-circuits and large central patch on the inner web of most of the tail-feathers, pure white, thus giving a striking effect as the tail spreads in its various flitting motions,—this little beauty would do justice to the Tropics. The female is less brilliant and not so distinctly marked. But, excepting its sojourn in winter, which extends entirely south of the United States, this is especially a Northern bird, breeding from northern New England to Hudson's Bay. Mr. C. J. Maynard describes a nest, taken at Umbagog the second week in June, 1870, as follows: "It was placed on the forked branch of a low spruce, about three feet from the ground, on a rising piece of land, leading from a wood-path. The nest, which contained four eggs, was constructed of dry grass, spruce-twigs, roots &c., and was lined with fine black roots, the whole being a coarse structure for so dainty a warbler. The eggs were more spher-

ical than any Warbler's I have ever seen. The ground-color is a creamy white, blotched sparingly over with large spots of lilac and umber." Another, which was taken June 8, 1871, was "composed outwardly of a few scattered dead twigs of larch, interwoven with stalks of weeds and dry grass. It is lined with black horsehair; this dark lining forms a strange contrast with the faded appearance of the outer part. The whole structure is very light and airy in appearance, strongly reminding one of the nest of the *D. Pennsylvanica*." This is in harmony with a note from Mr. Andrew Downes, of Halifax, N. S., who says, "I once found the nest of this bird on a hard-wood bough, breast-high; it was composed of very light material, I could see through it." From a nest in H. A. Ward's cabinet at Rochester, N. Y., and which was taken in Maine in June, I have the following note: "Placed in a fir-bush two feet from the ground, shallow, and so frail that one can see through it, made of dried grasses and rootlets, and lined with fine rootlets and a little horsehair. The four eggs are creamy white, spotted and speckled with red, brown and lilac, forming a delicate wreath. Size, .62 x .50." Like other Warblers, *maculosa* has a strictly insect diet, and contributes greatly to the preservation of our forests.

From REV. J. H. LANGILLE'S

"Our Birds in their Haunts."

We have received a copy of the new Oologist's Directory published by Dayis & Baker, and are well pleased with it. We have no doubt it will have a large sale.

NOTES ON SOME MILWAUKEE BIRDS.

CATBIRD (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.)

The Catbird is one of one of our commonest summer species. It is generally found in bushes where the nest is usually built. When the nest is approached, the birds remain perfectly quiet, but as soon as they find their home and its contents have been discovered, they are greatly disconcerted, hopping about very near it and uttering the cat-like cry which has given them their name. The first arrival for this year was recorded on May 9th.

BROWN THRASHER (*Harporhynchus rufus*) has many habits similar to those of the Catbird, building in similar situations and showing the same distress when being robbed of its eggs. When any one comes within hearing distance of this bird while breeding, it begins to utter its note. The bird will follow the intruder for a long time after he has left the nest, and sometimes becomes so infuriated as to attack him.

PURPLE GRACKLE. (*Quiscalus purpureus*.)

This bird breeds very abundantly even in the city. It may sometimes be seen in single pairs but generally breeds in small parties of ten or more birds. The nest is usually built in an evergreen tree fifteen or twenty feet above the ground. When one nest is robbed or threatened, the owners collect all the birds of their own kind in the neighborhood and sometimes drive their enemy, whether man or beast, from the neighborhood.

CROW (*Corvus frugivorus*). A pair of this species generally take possession of some wooded place and live by themselves. If a person enters their domain, they resent the intrusion with harsh croaks. They are an early breeder, and as their nests are generally in some tall tree, difficult to climb, the collector is always glad to obtain a set of their eggs. What the young of this and the foregoing are fed on I don't know, though I once forced a blackbird to drop a small crab which it was evidently bringing for its young.

CHAS. A. KEELER.

The nests of birds should always be kept when possible, or a careful description written about each will answer if you have not room for them.

A canvas-back duck flies at the rate of 89 miles an hour.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words, will be inserted free in this column, to all subscribers.

I have a number of first-class eggs to exchange with other collectors. Send your lists and I will send mine in return. Address

JOHN S. APPLETON.

Needham, Mass.

The following eggs for exchange even, at catalogue rates. Send lists. Nos. 13, 41, 33, 128, 148, 151, 181, 237, 277, 278, 282, 289, 304, 313, 378, 431 and 480.

A. H. WILSON.

Box 1291, Vinland, N. J.

CORRESPONDENCE.

C. H. M., Lowell, Mass. The nest and eggs you describe, as given below, are those of the Pine-Creeping Warbler. "The nest was found the first of June, in a pitch-pine, about 30 feet from the ground, in a bunch of the pine-needles, and was about 2 1-4 inches deep outside, by 1 1-2 inside, external width about 3 inches. It was composed of fine twigs, dead grass, feathers, fine pieces of bark &c., and thickly lined with feathers, some of which were quite large. The eggs were four in number, bluish-white, with faint blotches of purple, over which are spots and dots of dark-brown, with a few dark lines. Size about 3-4 × 1-2 inch."

C. E. B. and others. There are a great many dealers in Natural History specimens of all kinds. We cannot furnish their names and addresses here; some of them will be found in our advertising columns, and we would advise you to write to them first, and probably they can supply you with what you desire.

J. L., Washington, D. C. Always fill out a data blank for every set of eggs you collect, and should you happen to break one you could mention it at the bottom or on the back of the blank.

E. W. Norwich, Ct. The robin sometimes lays six eggs, but the usual number is five.

J. B. Yes, we are always glad to receive any notes of interest to our readers from any one, and think we shall be able to decipher them, whether the penmanship is good or the reverse.

F. L., Dedham, Mass., states that he found a nest of the Spotted Sandpiper the 13th of June, containing four eggs of a dark buff color, spotted and dotted with dark brown, the spots increasing gradually in size toward the larger end, the nest was under a fence near a cultivated field, and but a short distance from the river.

GENERAL NOTES.

All eggs collected should be carefully identified.

Embryo-scissors are only suitable for large eggs.

When you exchange sets of eggs, you should also exchange the data blanks with them; and, in order to keep a note of them, it is well to keep a book to record all the facts mentioned on the data blanks and any other items that you consider of value.

An immense eagle was killed near Vacaville, Cal., a short time ago. It measured ten feet eight inches from tip to tip.

The first abbatross ever brought alive to Europe has just been introduced into the Jardin d'Acclimation at Paris; and English-speaking people study it with interest as the fatal bird of the "Ancient Mariner."

A boy passing along a country road espied an acquaintance holding a horse, and cried "Hilloa! Jim, whose horse have you got there?" "Oh, I don't know," responded the other, "it belongs to some crazy Dutchman who's down in the swamp there after a bird's nest."—It was Audubon.

OUR BIRDS

—IN—

THEIR HAUNTS.

A POPULAR TREATISE ON

The Birds of Eastern N. A.

—BY—

REV. J. H. LANGILLE, M. A.

Brief descriptions, and for the most part FULL LIFE HISTORIES, are given of all the species common east of the Mississippi, with special attention to the songs and nesting, and the curious and fascinating, of which there is so much in the lives of these wonderful creatures. The narrative follows, for the most part, the orders of the seasons, and groups itself about certain interesting localities, as Niagara River and St. Clair Flats. Migration, instinct, the analogy of nidification, the specialized forms and adaptation of structure of birds &c., all made readable.

The work is mostly from personal observations, incorporating a full report for Western New York and adjoining regions of the great lakes, and a pretty full report for Nova Scotia, also a good deal of direct information from Hudson's Bay, by means of an excellent correspondent.

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An Egg Drill, or Blowpipe
Five first-class Eggs
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Fifty Data blanks
An Embryo hook and small syringe, for rinsing.
One doz. Egg trays, size 2 x 3 and 4 x 6
Or any one of the following first-class eggs:
Western House Wren, Yellow Wagtail, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole, Louisiana Heron, Sna Bird or Brown Pelican.

THE
Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER, 1885.

No. 5.

A VACATION TRIP.

Or, Two Young Naturalists in New Hampshire.

By HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER I.

"Well, George, when do you expect to start?" inquired Edward.

"I think we shall be ready to go to-morrow," replied George.

The above dialogue took place between Edward Gray and George Loring, who were intimate friends living near each other in the little town of C——, Mass.

They were intending to drive up to New Hampshire, and spend their summer vacation there. George's parents kept a horse and carriage, and had promised to let the boys take it, to drive up with. They could have gone in the cars, in a few hours, but they preferred to drive up in a carriage and take two days for it, as they thought they would enjoy the ride, and have a chance to study the birds, and perhaps do some collecting on the route.

George had planned it entirely, and invited his friend to accompany him, an offer that was eagerly accepted.

"What do you intend to take with you?" asked Edward.

"Here is a list of things that I have written down; you can look it over and see if there is anything wanting. We will have to carry up everything

we want to use, but I do not wish to take anything we can do without."

Then they discussed the question of provisions. They expected to catch some fish, and perhaps kill some game, so did not carry a great deal with them: a water-pail full of corn meal (it was good for corn cake, hasty pudding, and for the fish); also some rice, crackers, coffee, sugar, salt and pepper, and a lunch for the first day. The second day's lunch they expected to get put up at a hotel, where they stopped overnight. For the rest there was the shot-gun, a pound of Laffin & Rand's "Orange Lightning" powder, four or five pounds of shot, different sizes (including "dust"). This was all packed away in a small box, with the brass cartridges, fish hooks and lines, primers, wads, loading tools etc. It was not necessary to take any dishes or cooking utensils, as there were some in their house, also beds and furniture. George's folks owned a small cottage about a mile from the town of S——, which the boys had chosen for their destination.

"I wonder if it will be pleasant to-morrow," said Edward, resuming the conversation.

"I hope so," replied George. It will not be so pleasant to travel in a rain-storm."

The boys finally succeeded in getting all their packing done, and retired for the night, though they did not

get to sleep for some time, but lay awake thinking about their journey. Sleep came to them at last, however.

"I lay awake a long time last night," said George, when he met his young friend in the morning-

"So did I," replied Edward, "but I took to counting, a favorite scheme of mine, and one that never fails. I can't seem to get over four hundred before I'm asleep."

The morning was a fine one for their journey, the sky was clear, and a cool breeze was blowing from the northwest. The boys ate their breakfast somewhat hastily, and at seven o'clock had bidden their folks good bye and were starting on their journey.

(*To be continued.*)

THE

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.

Of the many species of Woodpecker inhabiting this State, with the exception of the Yellow Shafted Flicker the Red-bellied is about the most plentiful, though it cannot be identified by its name. The bird is spotted above ashy-gray; below, turning to a reddish tinge toward the tail; both male and female have a red mark on back of the head. They are found quite plentiful along our streams and are to be found almost at all seasons of the year, but are more commonly met with during the warm sunny days of Spring, mostly when the snow is slowly melting away, and showing signs of Spring. I have just become acquainted with the breeding habits of this bird and find that in most cases they select a dead and

decayed willow, well up, so that a collector of eggs cannot do much with them. Along in June as I was walking along one of our streams I noticed one of these birds sitting at the mouth of a hole in a decayed willow with a worm in her bill. I knew that the hole contained young, but still I was anxious to look in. The tree overhung a pond of water and was very much decayed, so I climbed up as far as I thought it would hold and began shaking with all my might; it cracked; another shake, and down comes the top right into the pond of water below, it broke off where the hole had been excavated. Four young, fully fledged, flew out into the world for themselves.

A set of five, pearly white eggs of this bird taken on May 20th, this season, are now in my collection; these were found in a decayed willow, in a hole excavated about 8 inches deep, where the eggs were deposited on the bare wood.

G. F. BRENNINGER,

Beattie, Kas.

AMERICAN BITTERN.

(*Botaurus lentiginosus.*)

This bird is seen about ponds and streams, occasionally, in this locality. It goes by various names, the most common, perhaps, being Post Driver. It is also called Pump Thunder, from the peculiar noise they make. I have tried to get a sight at the birds while they were making this noise, but have never been successful. Have any of your readers ever seen them when making this noise. I have found

three nests since I began collecting, but they are seldom found in this locality. I know of but one other nest being found about here.

All the nests that I have found were in thick brush in a meadow. first nest I found in Dunstable, Mass. June 3, 1883. A number of weeks after this, I found another nest with three eggs, but a few yards from where the first was found. This was probably made by the same pair. My third nest I found June 7, 1885, in Tyngsboro, Mass., containing four eggs. These were nearly hatched. There was not much of nest, only a few sticks and twigs laid on the ground. The nest was nearly flat on top.

The eggs are of a light olive, without spots. They average about 1.75 by 1.45 of an inch.

C. W. SWALLOW.

TAXIDERMY.

By D. H. EATON.

Having procured your bird lay it on its back on the bench, head from you. Note the position of wings, and general shape of the body, for the skin, when stuffed, should resemble it as nearly as possible.

Part the feathers with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, in a line from the breast-bone to the vent. Make a cut on this line, being careful not to cut too deep, for if the intestines are exposed the operation will be much complicated and the feathers are very apt to get soiled. Lift the skin with the fingers or tweezers and pull gently, at the same time

press the flesh away from the skin with the knife. No cutting is necessary. Skin well around the thigh, then take the foot in the hand and bend the leg, pushing it out at the same time. Cut off at the knee, and clean the flesh from the bone thoroughly. Do the same with the other side. Skin to the tail and cut off, being careful to leave enough flesh to hold the tail feathers and also take care not to cut too deep, in which case you will completely sever the tail from the body.

Now lift the bird with the tweezers, if a small one, if large let it rest on its breast on the table, and strip the skin down to the wings, and cut them off close to the body.

The ears are the next obstacle, they are detached from the skull with the point of the knife. Skin to the eyes, draw the knife over the membrane covering them and scoop them out with the point of the knife, being careful not to puncture them, as the moisture will wet the feathers and spoil the looks of your specimen. Sever the body by cutting through at the base of the skull.

Carefully clean out the skull and cut as much flesh as possible from the jaws, and extract the tongue. Now skin the wings and clean the flesh from the bones, which should be left.

Sprinkle the skin thickly with powdered arsenic, rub it in thoroughly around the vent and put some in the skull. Remember that you cannot use too much arsenic, which is a preservative, and I have found it is the best security against the attacks of insects.

Place little wads of cotton in the eye

holes and return the skin. A little practice will show how this is done better than a whole volume of printed instructions. If much difficulty is experienced a little soap will cause the neck to easily slip over the head.

Smooth the plumage and fill out the body with stuffing. In filling out a skin a small piece of cotton should be made into a taper roll and the small end pushed up into the throat of the bird, then take a piece about the size of the body and place in the skin, draw the edges of the cut together and fasten with a stitch of strong thread. Cross the legs, place the wings in position and put the skin on its back in a drying form to dry. With the tweezers shape the eyelid round and pull out a little of the cotton which you put in the eye holes, just enough to keep the lids in place.

The drying forms are made of tin bent into a semi-cylinder and their cost is but a trifle, as they are made from scraps of tin found in every tin shop.

Ducks and some woodpeckers require a little different treatment. After skinning as far as the head, which is done in the same manner as I have attempted to explain above, cut off the body and make a cut along the top of the head. Skin the head through this opening, clean the skull as before, return to place and sew up carefully.

The specimen should be labeled with sex, locality, date and name of collector.

In your note book record extent of wings, which is ascertained by laying the bird on its back, spread-

ing the wings and measuring the distance from tip to tip; color of eyes, feet, and bill, and, if you choose, contents of stomach. These entries must be made (except the last) in the field, while the bird is fresh.

A bird the size of a robin is the best to begin on.

By following the directions given patiently and with the desire to learn, I think any one can make a bird skin. The first attempts may be crude, but with practice comes perfection. Never shoot more birds than you can skin before they spoil. Use No 12, or dust shot, with a light charge of powder, for all small birds.

If any reader is in doubt about any part of the operation, or wishes information on any point, a letter addressed in care of the publisher will reach me and receive prompt attention.

FLORIDA CORMORANT.

I found the nest and eggs of this bird on a small island, in the Homasasa River, Florida, the 28th of April, 1884. There were three greenish-white eggs in the set, size 1.54 x 2.27, 1.47 x 2.43, and 1.47 x 2.30. The eggs were quite fresh. The nest was in a mangrove tree, 16 ft. up, and composed of branches and mud, and lined with sea-weed, dry grass and leaves.

J. C. C.

Taunton, Mass.

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ERRATA—The 14th line on the 5th
page of last number should read.—
"Crown a sky blue."

Although obliged to issue two months
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copies for a year's subscription, and as
much reading matter.

Will those subscribers who receive two
copies of the YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST
kindly hand the duplicate number
to some friend interested in our
branch of Natural History, and thus
aid us in getting a new subscriber.
Remember that the more subscribers
we get the larger and better will be
our paper.

We intend soon to publish a con-
tinued article on New England Birds;
a brief description of the different
varieties, with time of breeding; also
describing their nests and eggs.

Until the 15th of October, we will
send any one of the following books,
and the Young Ornithologist one year
for 50c: "Camping Out," Left on
Labrador," or "Lynx Hunting."
These works are written C. A. Steph-
ens, are printed in large type and
and strongly bound in illustrated paper
covers.

We intend to illustrate our paper
soon, and hope our friends will sub-
stantially aid us in our efforts to im-
prove our little journal.

We have received copies of "The
Canadian Record of Science, West
American Scientist, The Western
Oologist, Cottage Hearth, The Orni-
thologist, Hermes, Random Notes on
Natural History, The Agassiz Jour-
nal, Naturalist in Florida, and
others that we have not the room to
mention.

GENERAL NOTES,

The shape of birds' eggs is thus
scientifically described:

Spherical; Round, or nearly so.

Elliptical; Oblong, diameter of both
ends equal.

Oval; Egg-shaped, diameter of one
end greater than the other.

To clean bird-skins, take a soft
sponge, wet with lukewarm water;
wash them softly, and use plaster of
paris to dry the feathers. Avoid
getting the feathers stuck together by
keeping in motion until dry.

CORRESPONDENCE.

F. J., Davenport, Ia. — "Will you please tell me why the Baltimore orioles build such a pouch-shaped, deep nest, and if the Great-crested Flycatcher breeds in Massachusetts?"

1. The Baltimore oriole builds its pensile nest at the extremity of a bough if it were not so deep the eggs and young birds would be thrown out as the boughs sway back and forth during a hard wind. 2. Yes, though somewhat locally distributed.

J. A., West Newbury, Mass. The eggs of the Anhinga, or Snake Bird, and the Brown Pelican are worth 40c. and 20c. respectively.

W. V., E. Jaffrey, N. H., writes, "The Black-throated Green Warbler is quite abundant here this year. Upland Plover seem to be decreasing in numbers, though a few breed near here every year. I saw a hawk pursued by Robins and Catbirds alight in a large dead tree, and one of the robins lit quite near it on the same tree. I shot the hawk, and it proved to be the Cooper's Hawk.

R. W. F., Bristol, Ct. writes, "While collecting this season I found a nest of the Crow placed in the fork of three large branches of a chestnut tree, The nest was about 35 ft. high and contained four eggs. It was composed of sticks for a foundation, then a small quantity of dirt, and lined with inner chestnut bark grape-vine bark, horse and cow's hair, hog's bristles and skunks' and squirrels' fur. Would like to hear from other collectors in regard to fur found in Crow's nests.

M. G. L., Nantasket, writes, "I was riding out today and found a nest with four young robins about four days old, the old bird was sitting near by apparently not much pleased at having me investigate her family. Is this finding nest so late not an unusual occurrence?"

The robin usually lays three litters of eggs during the season in Massachusetts.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words will be inserted free in this column to all subscribers.

To all others 20 cents each insertion. Cash with order.

'Gambels' white crowned Sparrows' eggs, to exchange for books and papers on Natural History or Natural History specimens.

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We will send our paper one year FREE for magazines and papers that WE WANT. Send lists of what you have.

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I have a number of first class eggs to exchange with other collectors. Send your lists and I will return in return. Address

JOHN S. APPLETON,
Needham, Mass.

For sale, or exchange for eggs; A Stevens 8 inch pocket rifle, 22 calibre; also a Waterbury watch. Address,

C. W. SWALLOW,
Tyngsboro, Mass.

The following eggs in sets and single to exchange even at catalogue rates. Send list.—Nos. 2, 41, 74, 139, 151, 154, 157, 197, 214, 258, 304, 326, 315, 387 and 686.

FRED E. DERBY,
Tilton, N. H.

The following eggs for exchange even, at catalogue rates. Send lists. Nos. 13, 33, 41, 128, 143, 151, 181, 237, 277, 278, 282, 289, 304, 313, 378, 431 and 480.

A. H. WILSON,
Box 1291, Vineland, N. J.

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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1885.

No. 6.

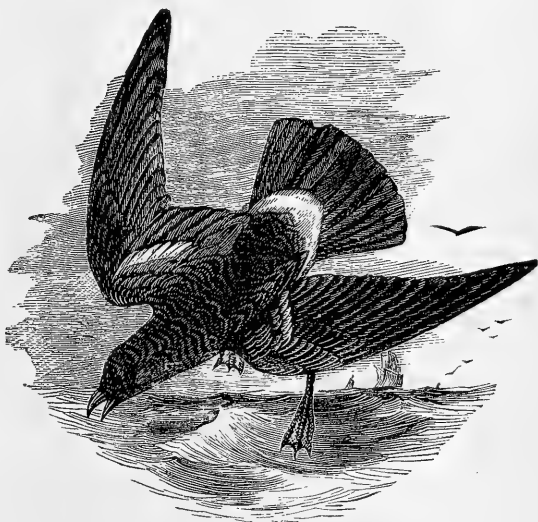
LEACH'S PETREL.

About five miles beyond Flat Island, and farthest out to sea of all the islands in this locality, is Green Island, as it is called in the vicinity, or Grass Island, as it is set down on the maps and charts. Comprising about twenty acres, it is surrounded by bluffs of rock, these being, no doubt, the outcroppings of its solid foundation. The surface is a beautiful bright green—an oasis in this ocean desert. The soil is a soft brown vegetable mould, appearing like bog-turf, and showing that the position of the island was once very different—a swamp perhaps in the midst of the sea. A number of islands along the coast of the Province have this appearance, and there are several at different points bearing the name—Green Island.

Having secured a fine little sailing yacht at Mahone Bay, I had some difficulty in finding men willing to make the trip to this island, so far out at sea, and where it is possible to land

only in calm weather. The day chosen was delightful, the sea smooth, and the wind so favorable that we sailed out and back without tacking. The great desideratum in visiting this spot was the study of the breeding of the Petrels, or Mother Carey's Chickens. I was not a little surprised when one of the company told me I could smell the birds before we reached the

island if the wind were in the right direction. I protested that he was simply practising a joke on my credulity; but he seemed veritably in earnest. Very truly, on approaching the island on the leeward side, and while yet several rods



distant, the peculiar musky odor of the Petrels was in every breath of the wind. The long swells carried our small boat, towed out for landing, well upon the huge rocks, where we were most cordially received by the keeper of the lighthouse which the Government has stationed here. The same Terns which we found at Flat Island were breeding here, also on the ledges of the rocks, but in moder-

ate numbers, and a few of the Puffins, or Sea Parrots as they are called here, had found a breeding place in the deep crevices of the rocks. The Petrels, however were the marvel of the place. Nearly every square yard of turf was completely honey-combed with their nesting burrows; and everywhere the air was laden with their peculiar odor. Here and there the ground was strewn with the wings and tails of the birds which had been eaten by the dog belonging to the lighthouse. The dog being kept without feeding, and obliged to support himself by this enterprise.

From "OUR BIRDS IN THEIR HAUNTS."
(To be concluded in our next.)

A VACATION TRIP.

Or, Two Young Naturalists in New Hampshire.

By HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER II.

It was a beautiful day in June, and as they rode slowly along their ears were saluted by a perfect chorus of birds songs. Red-eyed Vireos were in profusion, in every wood they passed a pair of these little vocalists were industriously engaged in searching for insects, and keeping up their persistent but cheerful song at the same time. One of them had secured a large loop worm, and holding it firmly with one foot, was busily engaged in tearing it to pieces and devouring it with evident relish.

They passed through several towns during the forenoon, and enjoyed their ride immensely. Besides the pleasure of seeing the numerous elegant residences and tastefully arranged grounds, there is something exhil-

arating about riding, particularly fast riding, the influence of which few can withstand. At half-past eleven they reached a lovely lake surrounded by wooded hills; a pearl in an emerald setting.

"Here's a capital place to lunch," exclaimed George, and driving into the woods among the large trees which were quite clear of underbrush, they unharnessed the horse from the carriage and tied him to a tree.

"Guess I won't feed him yet, he's rather warm," said George.

"How far have we come this morning? twenty miles or so?"

"Yes I think so, and I want to go twenty more this afternoon."

The boys then took their lunch basket out under the trees that overlooked the lake and began eating their lunch.

"How good these cold biscuits and tongue taste!" cried Edward.

"Yes," replied George "and the doughnuts too; in fact riding gives me such an appetite that everything tastes good."

After finishing their repast they attended to the wants of their horse, and then started down to the lake. George skipped a stone along the water near the shore, and started up a Spotted Sandpiper, which flew off over the water uttering its cry of "Peep, peep, peep," which has doubtless given a number of these birds their name of Peeps among the sportsmen. In a short time they returned to their carriage and resumed their journey. As they were riding slowly along, just after a rapid trot of some distance, Edward espied a hawk skimming along close to the ground and flying towards

them, he called George's attention to it and he jumped out, and, hastily inserting a couple of cartridges in the gun, awaited its appearance; but the hawk, evidently perceiving them, swerved to the left and crossed the road some ways behind them and out of gunshot.

"That's provoking!" muttered George, as he jumped into the carriage and started on. Nothing noteworthy occurred until the latter part of the afternoon, when as they were watering the horse in a little brook that crossed a part of the road, George noticing a Robin's nest in a small pine standing adjacent to the road, walked over to examine it. He did not expect anything unusual and was agreeably surprised to find a set of six eggs.

"Is it very unusual to find six in a set?" inquired Edward, as his friend showed them to him.

"Rather, though they are found occasionally, but this is the first set of six I've ever found myself."

They were packed carefully away in a box brought for the purpose, and resuming their journey reached their first stopping place an hour afterwards. The boys were somewhat tired with their long ride and were glad to walk about the town a little before eating their supper. Some of the houses in the town seemed very old, having long sloping roofs and peculiar shaped windows, with large old-fashioned cornices, on some of the doors the old-fashioned brass knockers were visible. But we have not the time to devote to architecture, even if somewhat ancient, that we would like to have. The very air, straight from the northwest, with its invigorating power,

seems to say "Go on;" and doubtless our readers say likewise.

The next morning the boys were off at half-past six, starting thus early to take advantage of the cool morning air. The landscape was becoming radiant in the bright morning sunlight and the fields and trees seemed alive with birds which are not apt to be seen by the late risers. During the forenoon they came across a nesting place of the Bank Swallow in a clayey bank near a small stream. The air was full of the graceful little birds, some of which were soaring way up in the air nearly out of sight.

(To be continued.)

THE BROWN THRUSH.

(*Harporhynchus Rufus.*)

For "The Young Ornithologist."

By WM. L. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

This species, called also the "Brown Thrasher," "Long-tailed," and "Golden Thrush" is not a resident of this vicinity, nor have I yet seen the bird alive in any of those parts of Canada that I have visited; but as it is known to approach within twenty miles of this locality, it may probably, in a few years (like other species that have arrived in recent seasons) make its way there. Its eggs have been taken in the southern part of this county, and it appears to be a common visitant near London and Hyde Park, but it does not appear to visit the Maritime Provinces. In the beautiful village of Elora, some thirty miles eastward, I was shown.

three years ago, a mounted specimen of this species that had been shot at that place, it having found among the evergreens, and other thick under-wood, that fringe the Grand and Irvin rivers, a congenial home. At Hyde Park, Mr. Marden says, "it is very locally distributed; frequenting low scrub, and hazel thickets. breeding in brush heaps, bushes, and on the ground impartially. Hamilton it also frequents, and Mr. Allan refers to it as common in the vicinity of Toronto. Perched on the topmost twig of some tall oak; the Golden Thrush, on a fine May morning, pours forth for an hour at a time its melodious song; the richest, and most varied in its notes of all the songsters of the grove. None who has once heard it, and listened to its cadence, so full of sweetness and melody, but would for ever scout the assertion, so often made by those who know little of our Canadian birds, that they are destitute of song. With the exception of some European species, there are few birds whose vocal powers can compare with those of this thrush. Its food consists of insects, worms, berries and fruit of all sorts; and, like the Robin and the Cat Bird, it is very partial to the neighborhood of our gardens, when the cherries and the strawberries are ripe. But an occasional dessert at the gardener's expense need not be grudged them, when it is borne in mind the great number of insects of different kinds which they destroy, and which, if left to increase without a check, would prove a thousand times more destructive to our gardens and orchards. The nest of this Thrush is generally

placed in some thicket or bramble patch, and composed externally of dry twigs, imbedded in and mixed with dry leaves and coarse grass, and thickly lined with fibrous roots and horse-hair.

The eggs are from four to six in number, of a pale buff colour, thickly sprinkled with dots of brown. Few birds are more courageous in defending their nest than they, and they do not hesitate to fly even in the face of man himself if he be the intruder." "At no time," says Mr. Gentry, "is this bird gregarious, in the strict sense of the word. It arrives singly and departs as it came. When the breeding period is over, the ties which bound the sexes become dissolved, and an overweening love for self triumphs over every other feeling. The period of departure varies with meteorological and dietetic changes. An abundance of food-stuffs prolongs its stay, while a paucity, on the other hand, perceptibly diminishes it. Ordinarily its retirement takes place in the early part of October."

Insect powder strewn around and on birds' skins is recommended as a preventative against insects.

A skeleton of the gigantic bird called the Dinorinus of New Zealand, the disappearance of which dates back but a little time, was over eighteen feet high.

A complaint has arisen from sportsmen that snipe are not as plenty as usual this year owing to the late fashion of using their skins to ornament ladies hats.

The Young Ornithologist.

A Monthly devoted to the promotion of the
Sciences of Ornithology and Oology.

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To those desirous of forming clubs we will send three copies of our paper one year for \$1.00. Get two new subscribers and send us with your own name and receive your subscription free.

A few years ago before data blanks came into use; collectors were in the habit of writing descriptions of the nest and eggs on the egg itself. The inconvenience of this doubtless led to the invention of data blanks.

A. E. Southworth & Co. Woodstock, Ill., will issue a Directory in January, 1886, which promises to be a perfect success. We advise all collectors to send 25 cents to have their names inserted and secure a copy of the Directory which we feel confident will be worth double the price.

We are always glad to receive publications on Natural History, especially those devoted to Ornithology.

It would take nearly two thousand humming-birds' eggs to fill the cavity of one ostrich's egg.

A Bald Eagle was caught recently at Wilmington, Del., while trying to carry off a large dog.

A writer of a recent article in one of our leading papers asserts that crows have 26 distinct cries, calls or utterances, each readily distinguishable from the other, and each having an unmistakable connection with a certain class of action.

CORRESPONDENCE.

E. A. D., Keene, N. H. The Snowy Owl is very rare a resident in New England, it breeds further North. The nest is placed on the ground. The eggs are 3 or 4 in number, white, average size about 1.90 x 2.30.

G. E. C., Jersey City, N. J. 1. See our answer to C. R. B. in our June number. 2. You should search for the nest of the Great Horned Owl in February.

L. C., Malden, Mass. The Ground Titmouse (*Chamaea fasciata*) breeds in California, the eggs are greenish blue, usually four in a set; the nest is found in a small bush near the ground.

G. F. B., Beattie, Kan., writes, "I found a set of 7 eggs of the Bronzed Grackle, May 13th, 1885."

The usual number is from four to six. This was an exceptionally large set.

C. R., Waltham, Mass., writes, "A robin built its nest on a window-sill of our house, and although the room was constantly occupied and the window often opened, it raised its young apparently undisturbed by our close proximity.

FALL NOTES.

FROM WISCONSIN.

August 13.—Migration has begun in earnest. Bank Swallows left during the latter part of July and only the stragglers remain. Killdeer Plover began moving on the 3rd inst., and a flock of five were seen this morning at about 5.30. A little later a flock of about twenty Mallards were seen. American Goldfinches are coming in great numbers, and their twittering may be heard in both city and country. Large numbers of Cedar Birds are to be seen in the trees along the banks of the river. Two Great Blue Herons were seen flying southward at about 8.30 this morning.

August 14.—Barn Swallows left this morning.

August 15.—Barn Swallows were seen flying northward this morning, feeding on the way. They had been driven back by the south wind.

August 17.—At 6 A. M. saw a flock of about thirty Bobolinks. They were flying very high and in a rather compact flock. A Great Blue Heron was seen flying northward this morning evidently in search of food. Only one Barn Swallow was seen. Probably the rest left during the night. The Purple Martins are collecting preparatory to leaving. They will probably move soon.

August 19.—Purple Martins were seen migrating at 9 A.M. Two flocks of 15 or 20 individuals passed over the city.

August 20.—Three Herring Gulls were seen this morning. Night Hawks migrated at about 7 P. M. They did

not fly in a compact flock, but the air seemed filled with them.

August 21.—At about 4 P.M. Night Hawks were seen migrating at Wauwatosa. About an hour later Chimney Swifts collected into a flock of fifty or sixty individuals and left.

August 31.—Cedar birds are still very common on the banks of the river. They have not collected into flocks but spend their time feeding upon the winged insects which they catch after the manner of flycatchers.

CHAS. A. KEELER.

NEW ENGLAND BIRDS.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRDS, AND THEIR NESTS AND EGGS. ONLY THOSE BREEDING IN NEW ENGLAND ARE INCLUDED.

No. 1.—WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla mustelina*.

Color above, cinnamon brown, darkest on the head; below, white faintly tinged with buff; breast, spotted with black. Length. 9 inches.

The eggs, 4-5 in number, are greenish-blue. Average size 1.08 x .70.

The nest is placed in a bush or low tree usually quite near the ground. It is composed of leaves and grasses with a layer of mud and lined with fine rootlets. Incubation, last of May.

No. 2.—WILSON'S THRUSH. *Hylocichla fuscescens*.

Color above, reddish brown; below white, sides faintly shaded with grey, throat buff spotted; also a few spots on the breast. Length 7½ inches.

The nest is on or near the ground. The eggs are 3-5, oval, bluish-green .92 x .62. Incubation, 1st of June.

No 3. — † GRAY CHEEKED THRUSH, *Hylocichla Aliciae*.

Color above, uniform olivaceous; below, yellowish white. Length 8 to 8½ inches.

Nests in low bushes. The eggs, 4-5, are dark green .92 x .64.

No. 4a. — OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, *Hylocichla ustulata*.

Above, clear olive, uniformly; below, white, shaded heavily on the sides of breast with grey; throat and breast yellowish white, breast spotted with large dusky spots. Length 7-7½ inches.

Nests in low trees or bushes. The eggs 4-5 are greenish-blue spotted with brown. .88 x .66. Incubation 1st of June.

No. 5a. — HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla Unalascae pallasi*.

Above, brownish-olive, below, white, shaded on the sides with grayish: breast and throat tinged with yellow and spotted with large dusky patches. Length 7 inches.

Nest on the ground. Eggs 4, greenish blue .92 x .60 v. Incubation about the 1st of June.

† Rarely breeding in New England.

(To be continued.)

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words will be inserted free in this column to all subscribers.

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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER, 1885.

No. 7.

For the Young Ornithologist.

THE BELTED KINGFISHER.

(*Ceryle alcyon*.)

—
This bird is found all over North America, and its peculiar habits make it a very interesting study to the ornithologist. It is about thirteen inches long, and the head is surmounted by a crest. The color is blue above; the under parts, and a spot anterior to the eye, being white, with a band of light brown across the breast:

Its favorite resort is near a pond or stream, where it will sit for hours on a decayed limb watching for fish which constitutes its food. When it sees a fish it darts headlong into the water, sometimes going completely beneath the surface, and seizing the fish, returns to its tree and devours it, and is immediately on the watch for another.

It is also peculiar for its breeding habits, choosing a location, generally remote from the water, which it seldom leaves for other places.

By the united efforts of the male and female a hole is excavated horizontally in a sandy bank to a distance of from four to six feet, the first two or three feet being about three inches in diameter, and then widening gradually. There is no nest built, the eggs being laid on a handful of fish bones on the bottom. The eggs are generally six in number, and on account of the difficulty in obtaining

them, they are generally in good demand; they are pure white.

If the female is sitting on the eggs when the collector's hands are inserted he will receive several severe pecks, and if he is not used to the business, he will generally withdraw his hand immediately. Where the hole is straight, I have successfully tried "spooning" the eggs out with a large spoon tied to a long stick. But it is so often curved that this method is not always expedient.

FRED S. ODLE,

Lapeer, Mich.

HOODED WARBLER.

—
This beautiful and handsome Warbler has long been familiar to me as one of the migratory tribes, but until this past season their breeding habits have been unknown to me, but on the 30th of April, 1885, I found my first nest. It was situated in a small bush, about two feet from the ground, composed, outwardly, of cane leaves, withered plants, &c., lined with fine dry roots and horsehair. It contained four eggs, white, speckled with reddish-brown spots, chiefly on the large end. They seem to prefer a low, wet situation to all others, at least I have found it so, as I have found several since the season commenced and always in the same situation. Whether they raise more than one brood during the season, I am unable to say at present.

T. D. PERRY.

Savannah, Ga.

A VACATION TRIP.

Or, Two Young Naturalists in New Hampshire.

BY HARRY ROLAND.

CHAP. III.

They sat watching the swallows for some time, as they flew around in all directions with the lightness and grace of butterflies. They did not disturb their peaceful retreat, as it was rather late to find fresh eggs, and, besides, they had nothing with them to dig into their nests with except a jack-knife, which was barely adequate to the task.

"Have you a set of their eggs at home?" inquired Edward.

"Yes," replied George, "haven't you?"

"No: this is the first colony of Bank Swallows that I've seen. There don't seem to be any near our place. Where did you get yours?"

"I dug them out of a clayey bank like this one, near the roadside, a little ways out from Dedham, when I was over that way collecting. The burrow, tunnel, or whatever you would call it, was over two feet in extent; the eggs were laid on a slight nest made of grass and feathers, and some were pure white in color. There were five eggs and three young ones just hatched."

"I suppose the five eggs you got contained embryos, did they not?" inquired Edward.

"No, that was the strangest part of it; they were all quite fresh."

"How do you account for that?"

"I think different birds must use the same nest."

Somewhat reluctantly the boys

drove on, and left the busy little birds to themselves. The weather was somewhat warmer than on the preceding day, and at noon they were driving slowly along a sandy road without any trees near, and watching eagerly for a suitable place to stop for their mid-day lunch.

There had not been any rain for some time in this locality, and the roads were very dry and dusty.

"Isn't that another hawk?" asked Edward pointing across a large field.

"Yes" responded George, "See! he's lit in that dead tree over there near the fence. I wish we had a field glass to watch him with."

"Langille speaks of watching a Sparrow Hawk that way while it was engaged in tearing a sparrow to pieces and devouring it," said Edward.

"Have you got his book?" inquired George.

"Yes," replied Edward, "it's the only one I have got, you are more fortunate than me. How many works on Ornithology have you?"

"Well, I have Minot's 'Birds of New England,' Coue's 'Key to North American Birds,' and Ingersoll's 'Bird Nesting.'"

"Which did you bring with you? I believe I saw you putting a book in the box."

"Yes you did. I brought Coue's 'Key,' I hadn't the room to spare for but one."

"And so brought the biggest one?" interrupted Edward.

"And I thought that would be the best, all things considered," continued George.

A little further on they came to a single large tree, side of the road, and as they were somewhat tired they

decided to stop there, instead of looking further in quest of a better place. It was very warm and the sky had that hazy appearance so often seen during a warm day in summer. Off across the fields waves of hot air could be seen rising from the heated earth. In the west were two or three pyramidal white clouds resembling mountains of snow often a forerunning of a thunder storm, but in this case they passed by towards the southeast, and the sun which had been partly hidden burst forth again in all his splendor.

(To be Continued.)

LEACH'S PETREL.

The burrows of the year were readily distinguished by their fresh appearance and by the excavated dirt newly thrown out.

Down on our hands and knees we went to work digging for the sitting birds. The reddish mould, staining hands and clothing of the operator, was quite mellow, and following the sinuous course of the burrows, generally several feet in length, the birds each with its single egg were brought to light. Occasionally the burrow contained two birds and no egg, the pair probably cohabiting previous to incubation. On being unearthed the birds seemed perfectly astonished and stupid, dazed, perhaps from having the light of day thus suddenly let in on them. Sometimes they would sidle off the egg, often they would permit numbers to be taken without any effort to escape.

This was Leach's Petrel, (*Cymochorea leucorhoa*,) which breeds commonly along the coast of Nova Scotia and also on the northeastern coast of

Maine. About Mud and Seal Islands their nests could be found all through the woods, in the ground, in rotten logs and stumps, and under the roots of trees. About 8.50 in length, 18.50 in extent, with wing 6.25, tail 3.25, bill .72 and tarsus 1.02. The color is sooty brown, darkest on the wings and tail, the wing-coverts ashy and the tail-coverts white. About 1.30 x .95 oval, both ends alike, the egg is white, with a wreath of delicate light spots around one end, the spots sometimes clustering about the point; or the egg may be pure white. As it is laid on the damp earth, or at most on a few rootlets still retaining the red mould, seldom on a few dried grasses, it is generally quite soiled

Out at sea their flight is truly beautiful, very much resembling the flight of the swallows. But for its conspicuous white spot on its rump, the unpracticed eye might easily mistake the specie for a Black Martin. Tossing and dashing hither and thither, it seems to toy with every breeze. No gale can overpower its vigorous flight. Playing on the very crest of the wave, ever and anon it will drop into the leeward of the heavy billows, to enjoy the temporary calm of these gorges and ravines of the sea.

Noticeable to every eye is its patting the surface of the most troubled waters with its tiny feet, thus Peter-like walking on the waves, and so acquiring its common name Petrel. In daytime it is nowhere to be found along the shore, but miles out at sea it is the constant companion of the fisherman; sporting under the bows of stern of his boat, gorging itself with bits of liver thrown overboard, or

taking perchance the coveted morsel from his hands. Great numbers accompany the fleets of fishing vessels on the banks. Ships at sea are followed great distances in search of the bits thrown overboard by the cook.

FROM "OUR BIRDS IN THEIR HAUNTS."

THE WOOD PEWEE.

(*Contopus virens*.)

I found my first nest of the Wood Pewee this spring. The nest was in a large white pine about twenty feet up and 7 feet out from the trunk, on top of a dead limb. I found it July 7th, and succeeded in getting it July 8th, with three fresh eggs. I tied a rope to the limb some ways out, fastened it to a limb over it, then sawed it off and pulled it in within reach.

The nest was covered with moss and lined with fine grass and pine needles 2 1-8 x 1 inch inside measure.

C. W. SWALLOW.

I should like to hear the opinion of collectors in regard to the best article to place eggs on. I have tried cotton and sawdust, neither of which have given complete satisfaction.

Also about the best method of arranging specimens, whether in rows, or in groups, and whether according to the size of the eggs, or the order to which the birds belong.

C. W. S.

THE YELLOW-BELLIED WOOD-PECKER.

Can you, or any of your readers tell what other name the bird "Sapsucker," has?

It is seen about here in the Spring

and Fall, in size between the Hairy and Downy Woodpecker. In spring head, neck, the upper part of breast, bright red, yellowish tinge on belly. The back resembles the Downy somewhat, but the markings do not show as plain.

C. W. S.

BARTRAM'S SANDPIPER.

FIELD PLOVER.

Among the many species of Plover that pass over our State in their yearly migrations there is the well known Field Plover, known by its queer long, shrill note heralding the early spring and the coming of the pleasant summer. It does not migrate in flocks or companies but singly or in pairs. The duties of incubation commence about May 5th. Selecting a piece of prairie where the grass from the passed year is still remaining, they scratch a slight hollow, lining this with old grass, where four eggs are laid, of a buff color, thickly spotted with umber and lilac, the small ends are all turned toward the centre. When the female is flushed from the nest it gives a cry of distress and flaps along the ground as if lame, thinking the intruder will follow. The young leave the nest as soon as hatched. The female gathers them under her wings at night and is always with them in the day. After they are full grown these Plovers are seen going north, flying rapidly and close to the ground, and but a few remain in a company, generally from three to five. About September 1st they return; they do not stop but keep on their southern journey until their winter home is reached.

G. F. BRENNINGER,

Beattie, Kan.

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E. M. Haight has a large stock of curiosities of all kinds on hand at very low prices. Our readers should send for his monthly price list. See his advertisement on the 8th page.

We have been obliged to leave out a large number of interesting articles for want of space but will publish them soon.

We have received a copy of Ernest Ingersoll's *Bird Nesting*, published by S. E. Casino & Co., of this city and we think it is just the book for the young collector, giving concise directions for preparing and labeling specimens, arranging the cabinet, in fact all the information that is required, is given in an attractive form. It also contains a list of Birds about the nidification of which little or nothing is known, which is a valuable feature of the work.

Special Present to New Subscribers.

To every one who sends in 50 cents for a year's subscription to the *YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST* before Jan. 1, we will send 4 dozen medium sized non-corrosive pens. These pens write very nicely, and are retailed at 10c. per dozen.

KIND WORDS.

"We have received a copy of the 'Young Ornithologist' and think it is very interesting, and well worth the price of 50 cents per year."—*The Chronicle*, Needham, Mass.

"I was handed a sample copy of your paper a few days ago, and think it is a little beauty both in style and make-up. Yours truly,

E. C. DAVIS,
Gainesville, Tex.

"Your paper in my eyes is the best appertaining to Ornithology and Oology published. You have my best wishes for its success."

E. W. LAPP,
Philadelphia, Pa.

"I am very much pleased with the style of your paper. It should receive the support of every live, working young ornithologist and oologist. I wish it all success."

OLIVER DAVIE,
Columbus, Ohio.

"We have examined a copy of the 'Young Ornithologist,' published by A. A. Child, 64 Federal Street, Boston, and find it very interesting and ably arranged. No student of Ornithology should fail to take it, as a single number often contains more of value than the subscription price."

E. H. PINKHAM, Publisher,
Newmarket, N. H

NEW ENGLAND BIRDS.

7.—AMERICAN ROBIN, *Merula migratoria*.

Above, dark grey, below chestnut red; under-tail covert white, also tips of inter-tail coverts and spots around the eye; length about 9 1-2 inches.

Nest: In any convenient place. The eggs 3-6 in number, are a soft bluish green, about 1.18 x .80. Incubation, last of April.

12.—CATBIRD. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.

Color, plain drab, crown black, under tail-coverts chestnut, length 9 inches.

Nest: In low bushes and trees. The eggs 4-5, are greenish blue, .98 x .64 v. Incubation, last of May.

13.—BROWN THRASHER. *Harporhynchus rufus*.

Above, rich rusty red, under parts white, shaded on the sides and flanks with pale brown, breast and sides profusely spotted with dark brown, throat unspotted, but bordered with a necklace of spots, length 11 inches.

Nest: In low bushes, occasionally on the ground. The eggs 4-6 are bluish white, thickly spotted with reddish brown and a few spots of pale lilac, 1.05 x .80. Incubation, 1st of June.

22.—BLUEBIRD, *Sialia sialis*.

Above, rich azure blue; throat, breast and sides chestnut, belly white; length 7 inches.

Nest: In hollows, in trees, posts and in boxes. The eggs, 4-6, are pale blue, in rare instances white, .84 x .62. Incubation, last of April.

33.—*GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus satrapa*.

Above, olivaceous, crown of the male having a concealed spot of scarlet bordered with yellow and black; wings and tail dusky, the former having two light bars, length 4 inches.

Nests: In hemlock trees. The eggs 6-8 are creamy white, covered with obscure spots, hardly perceptible, .50 x .40. Incubation in June.

41.—BLACK-CAPPED CHICADEE, *Parus atricapillus*.

Above, brownish drab, crown and neck black, sides of head white, below white, throat black, sides dusky, length 5 1-4 inches.

Nests: In hollows, in trees and stumps. The eggs, 6-8, are white, finely dotted with reddish-brown. Inc. last of May.

45.—*HUDSONIAN CHICADEE. *Parus Hudsonicus*.

Above, brownish, crown rich brown, throat black, sides of head white; below white, under-tail coverts light chestnut. Length 5—5 1-4 inches.

The eggs, 6—7, are white, spotted at the large end with reddish-brown, .58 x .45.

51.—WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis*.

Above, ashy blue, upper parts of head and neck; wings and tail black, below whitish, sides tinged with brown, length 6 inches.

Nests in hollows in trees, usually high up. Eggs, 4—6, are white, with a roseate tinge, spotted with yellowish brown and lilac, .80 x .60. Incubation last of May.

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THE NEST OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD.

While collecting June 2nd I was watching a Downy Woodpecker, whose set of five eggs I had just taken from a hole in an apple-tree near by, when I saw a humming bird fly from an oak tree and dart furiously at the woodpecker and then at me. This she repeated two or three times, each time flying back to the oak tree. I knew her nest must be in the vicinity, so I sat down to watch her. But I did not have to wait but a few minutes when to my delight she flew to what looked to be a moss-covered knot; this I knew was her nest. It was placed on a horizontal limb 30 ft. from the ground, and was about as far from the main trunk of the tree. I climbed to a large branch over the nest where I could look into it and see the two pure white eggs that were in it. I could not reach the nest, so I left it until the following day, when I returned with a ladder and succeeded in getting the nest and eggs, which are now in my collection.

The nest is made of fine plant down, covered thickly on the outside with lichens. It measures 3-4 of an inch in width, and just the same depth.

The eggs are elliptical in shape and measure .46 x .35. J. A.,

Needham, Mass.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words will be inserted free in this column to all subscribers. To all others 20 cents each insertion. Cash with order.

Woods from Ohio and Chestnut wood from N. Y. given in exchange for other woods. Mahogany, logwood, and rosewood wanted for collections. Address, B. W. KUMLER,

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Box 129, Needham, Mass.

We have the following eggs in sets to exchange for the same at even catalogue rates. Send lists. Nos. 27, 45, 164, 242, 336, and others. Send for list.

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I have a number of first-class eggs, to exchange for eggs from the South and West. Send list.

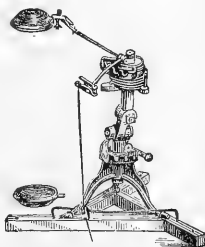
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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1885.

No. 8.

For the Young Ornithologist.

“NOT A SPARROW FALLETH.”

Every hope had left me, sorrow too had fled,

As I opened my window, crumbs around to spread.

One cunning little sparrow, with black throat and brown eye,

In his dear little bill, and flew away home;

Then I forgot all my sorrow that day,

In thinking, my Savior tho' he seemed far away,

Was ever near my wants to supply,

And guarding me with his dear loving eye,



Sat watching my motions from a bough that was nigh,

And sung me a song that I knew must be sweet,

Though I missed many a note from the noise in the street;

Then he flew to the window and took up a crumb

And the promise still stands tho' long since it was given,

That not a sparrow falls but is noticed in Heaven,

And if he cares for the dear little bird,

Our prayers to him will always be heard.

MARIE L.

For the Young Ornithologist.

THE RED-SHOULDER HAWK.

(*Buteo Lineatus*)

This is one of the most common hawks of this region, and is plentifully distributed throughout the Northern states.

The male is about twenty inches in length, the female twenty-two. The wing coverts from the body to the first joint are bright rufous. The upper parts are brown, the under parts pale yellowish-brown, and the tail brownish-black, with five transverse bands of white, and tipped with white.

Its note is a discordant ki-yi-i, which it utters while soaring high above the trees.

I have often heard it mimicked by the Blue Jay to such perfection that it was almost impossible to distinguish between them.

The nest, which is composed of coarse sticks and twigs, and lined with leaves and sprays of green pine, is generally placed in the top of a tall oak tree, and is a very bulky affair.

The number of eggs is given by some authors as four or five, but I have never seen more than three in a clutch, and I have collected four sets of fresh eggs, besides having found two containing young birds. The nest is placed so high up that it is usually a difficult and dangerous task to obtain the eggs.

My method is to fasten a small pail or basket to my person, and with a good ball of twine in my pocket, I mount the tree. Upon reaching the nest I deposit the eggs in the pail or basket, and lower it to the ground by means of the twine.

FRED. S. ODLE,
Lapeer, Mich.

THE TANAGERS.

The Tanagers form a numerous group of birds, the majority of which are confined to the tropical regions of America. Among the feathered tribes they are conspicuous for the brilliant plumage with which they are adorned.

Only one species, the well-known and much-admired Scarlet Tanager, is a Summer visitant of Canada; but in form and many of their habits the Grosbeaks and some of the Finches have a strong resemblance.

THE SCARLET TANAGER.

(*Pyrrhula rubra*.)

The Scarlet Tanager is one of the most beautiful and admired of Canadian wild-birds. With the exception of the wings and tail, which are a velvet black; the whole of the body of the male is adorned with an elegant plumage of rich scarlet. Its beautiful form, brilliant plumage, and graceful movements, when seen among the green branches of the trees, or flitting over the newly sown fields, or among the blossoming flowers, gives it a very fascinating appearance, which excites the admiration of every beholder, and renders it one of the most welcome of our Summer visitors. The Tanager is not among the earliest of our spring migrants, but as soon as the woods have begun to assume the emerald garb of Summer, and the insect tribes aroused by the heat of the solar rays to renewed life and activity, leave their dormant state, and flit again through the genial air, this species, impelled by migratory instinct and the love of its native woods once more returns from the tropic regions where

it has passed the winter seasons, to enliven the Canadian wilderness with its presence and its song. The male Tanager first makes his advent; and for some time after his return he may be seen in company with other birds in the fields bordering the woods, where he comes to feed on the uncovered grain; but being of a shy disposition and retired habits, he, as soon as his more suitable food becomes abundant in more concealed places, retires into the depths of the woods or the tops of the trees, where, during summer months, though his song notes are often heard, he is not frequently seen.

Occasionally he may be seen in large orchards in quest of small ripe fruit, but as soon as the demands of hunger are satisfied he again retires to the friendly shelter of the woods. The song of the Tanager somewhat resembles that of the robin, but though melodious, is warbled in a low tone. This song is heard at intervals during the summer months, and generally from an elevated position among the tree-tops. His more common notes, at the nesting period, of "Chip-beard," are often heard while his person is concealed from observation among the thick foliage surrounding or overshadowing the place which the female may have selected for her nest. These notes seem to come from a distance, though the author may be in the immediate vicinity, a faculty bestowed on him by the beneficent Author of Nature no doubt for his protection, to compensate in a degree for the danger to which his brilliant color so often exposes him. The Scarlet Tanager is about seven inches in length; the fe-

male is somewhat less. Her plumage is olive-green above, and of an ashen gray beneath, the thighs and tail being light black. She is yet more retired in her habits even than her more beautiful companion, and is seldom seen in his company except in the vicinity of her nest. She is strongly attached to her eggs and young, and when they are approached evinces much distress and strong maternal affection. The nest of the Tanager is generally placed in the fork of a small tree, or on a horizontal branch, usually not high off the ground. It is formed of small bramble stalks, of dead weeds, and lined with fine rootlets. The eggs, from three to five in the set, are of a light bluish-green hue, mottled with brownish spots. The manners of the Tanager are retired, easy and inoffensive. It arrives in the woods of central Ontario towards the latter part of May, and departs in the early part of September.

WM. L. KELLS,

Listowel, Ont.

THE YELLOW-WINGED SPARROW.

This little bird clothed in its modest coat of gray and yellow is an inhabitant of our vast prairies, though not entirely confined to the unsettled parts, but is a common bird about the pastures and haylands and is not at all shy, you may often pass within five feet of where one is contentedly seated on a post, wire, or fence stake.

They come back in the spring to their old haunts quite early as was made known to me last spring. One morning on (April 2nd) I was out (quite

cold and stormy it was that morning a little snow had fallen,) when a little bird flew up, but what kind was it so early in the season? It was the little Yellow-winged Sparrow seeking concealment among the weeds; a few days after more were seen, and still a week later they were quite abundant. They are strictly insect eaters, grasshoppers, katy-dids and many kinds of bugs fall to them as their prey, and are borne away to their young. Their nest is generally commenced by scratching a slight hollow in the ground, or in a tuft of old grass, then a neat lining of fine grass, and in most cases the nest is nearly arched over leaving an opening in the side; four eggs constitutes the set, though very near all found this season contained five eggs; some four, and one contained three eggs set on about two days. The eggs are white, marked thickly with spots of reddish brown and lilac; some form a wreath around the larger end. When flushed from the nest they have a peculiar flight that after once known will never be mistaken.

As the autumn draws near dozens of these birds may be seen perched on the wire of some pasture fence. They remain with us long into the month of October, when they depart for a more genial climate.

G. F. BRENNINGER,
Beattie, Kans.

If our readers desire to purchase anything advertised in our columns, they can do so with perfect confidence of being dealt fairly with, as we will not insert the advertisements of any but well known and reliable dealers.

THE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.



This lively little bird is found in New England in the fall

and winter. It is often seen in company with the Chickadees, Kinglets and other winter visitants.

It is supposed to breed occasionally in New England. Minot says,—

“A nest which I found in southern New England was somewhat different, but contained three eggs, which were white, marked with purplish and brown and orange, .68x .50 of an inch. Dr Brewer describes them as measuring about .75 x .55, of an inch, and being white, or often bluish, blotched and spotted with reddish-brown, purple and darker shades of brown.”

The adult male is slatey above, specked with black; below white, the breast and sides heavily streaked with black, throat pure white, bounded by the black of the side of the head and breast, superciliary lines white. Rump, middle of crown and sides of breast bright yellow; two white bars on the wings, large white blotches on the tail. Length, 5.50 to 6.00 inches. T. B.,

Dover, Mass.

T. W. Denier has a large stock of curiosities of all kinds on hand at very low prices. See his advertisement on the 12th page.

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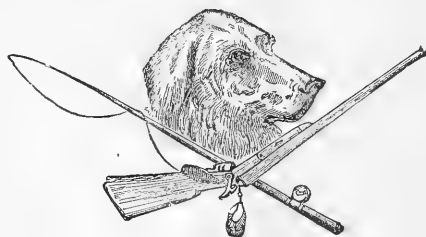
Back numbers of "The Young Ornithologist" can be furnished at 5c. each.

New subscribers can have their subscription begin with any number they choose.

We wish when other papers republish our articles they would give us credit for them.

Owing to the steady increase of our advertisements we have been obliged to enlarge this number.

To preserve the game: Exterminate the Foxes, Skunks, Weasels, Red Squirrels, Hawks and Owls.



ROD AND GUN.

SPARROW HAWK.

(*Tinnunculus Sparverius*).

One morning while hunting in Southern Minnesota several years ago, I was in a large oak forest in search of squirrels, when I observed a specimen of this species at a distance, sitting on the uppermost branch of large oak tree. At every attempt that I made to get it within range of the gun it would leave its perch and soar around in great circles high above the tree; but as soon as I would turn around and go to some distance from the tree, he would again return to his former perch.

About fifteen minutes later I hid behind some shrubbery and crawled along from bush to bush, unnoticed by him, on my knees.

When I got within twelve rods of it I fired, and he fell wounded to the ground.

It proved to be a fine specimen of the male Sparrow Hawk; upon examination I found that only one shot had taken effect in the breast. I took it home, dressed its wound, and put it in a cage. In a few days it recovered.

It made a fine pet; for in a little while it was so tame, that it would perch on my finger and eat from my hand. I had it for three months, when it was taken sick and died.

E. SENN,
Milwaukee, Wis.

For Quail use 3 to 3 1-4 drams of powder and 1 1-8 oz. of No. 8 or 9 shot.

A VACATION TRIP.

Or, Two Young Naturalists in New Hampshire.

BY HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER IV.

The boys had finished their dinner, or lunch, and were packing what remained into the carriage, when their ears were saluted by a great outcry from some blue jays a little distance off in a grove of trees. Blue jays are naturally noisy birds, but the cries they were now making seemed to be uttered with more energy than usual.

"What do you think is the trouble over there?" demanded Edward.

"I presume they are after a hawk, or an owl," replied George.

"Ain't you going after them?" inquired Edward.

"No, I guess not."

"Well, then, I guess I will," said Edward, and taking the gun he started off towards the grove. A few minutes rapid walking brought him to the grove, and entering it he disappeared from view.

About five minutes afterwards George heard the report of the gun, and presently Edward appeared bearing in his hand a fine Coopers Hawk.

"Handsome, isn't it?" exclaimed Edward, who felt quite proud at the result of his shot.

"Yes, its a very fine specimen. I think you had better keep it, and I will try and skin it to-night."

"All right, I will. I may be able to have it mounted some time."

"Or do it yourself," replied George.

As they resumed their journey and

were riding slowly along they could not help noticing how still it was, all animated nature seemed asleep, and not a sound broke the monotonous stillness except the noise of their horses' hoofs and the occasional creaking of their carriage. The country through which they were now passing was quite different from that through which they had travelled the day before. Long steep hills to climb and descend were of frequent occurrence. Rocky pastures and long woods comprised mostly of pine, spruce and hemlock took the place of cultivated fields and deciduous trees. But this was just what the boys liked and the places that to some would have seemed the most dreary and desolate, were often those that seemed to promise them the most pleasure and excitement. A small brook that they crossed over during the afternoon elicited the remark from Edward:

"Oh! what a brook for trout!" and in truth it seemed so, being a clear rapid running stream, containing numerous dark, deep pools flecked with foam, which are usually the localities chosen by the speckled beauties of the stream. The boys have now almost finished their long journey, and expect that a ride of two hours longer will bring them to their destination. As they get within a few miles of their house, they obtain their first view of grand old Monadnock, which is plainly visible towering above the surrounding hills to the Westward. The tourist or visitor to this locality will find the time well spent in ascending to the summit of this mountain. It has an elevation of 3720 feet above the

ocean level and commands a view of the country around it for fifty miles or more.

The summit is bare rock and the pathway to the top is composed mostly of rock, partly natural and partly man's handiwork. There is a small hotel part way up the mountain called the Half-way House. Up this far you can ride in a carriage, but the rest of the ascent (almost a mile) has to be made on foot.

George had climbed to the top of the mountain two years previous to this trip, and so he related all the interesting things about it to his companion very much as we have related them to the reader.

A little later as the sun was sinking in the West, surrounded by golden clouds like loyal subjects attending their king, the boys reached the house which is to be their home for the present.

(To be Continued.).

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words will be inserted free in this column to all subscribers.
To all others 20 cents each insertion. Cash with order.

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BIRD MIGRATION.

THE DATE OF THE DEPARTURE OF A FEW OF OUR MOST COMMON BIRDS.

October 10, last Catbird left for
the South, 12, Mourning Dove. 17,
The Brown Thrasher left to-day. 22,
Shot a specimen of the Wood Thrush,
the last one I have seen this Fall. 25,
While walking through the woods late
in the afternoon I observed twenty or
thirty Turkey Buzzards roosting on a
large chestnut tree; they probably
started southward early in the morn-
ing as that was the last I saw of them.
The bulk of the Yellow-shafted Flick-
ers left also to-day.

November 3, a large flock of Pur-
ple Grackles started on their journey
to-day. Last Killdeer left. 7, Blue-
birds in small flock. 12, Passenger
Pigeon. 13, about sixty Wild Geese
were seen flying overhead at 5 o'clock
P. M. 14, the Robins left, probably

on account of the cold wave which
struck us yesterday. The Goldfinch
and Song Sparrow are still to be found
in large numbers, and will not leave
as long as food is plenty.

Can any of the YOUNG ORNITHOLO-
GIST's readers tell me the right name
of the "Juwink" of this locality.

I like your paper better every issue.

F. L. BURNS,

Berwyn, Pa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

My paper was received day before
yesterday. In reply to Mr. Swallow
I would say that I think a cabinet
such as merchants keep thread in
would be superior to all others. As to
whether to keep eggs in groups or
rows, I would keep them in as
nearly the same position as I found
them in the nest as possible. As I
have had no experience, I cannot say
what would be the best article to keep
eggs on; but I have heard that sand
is the best. Another thing and I am
through. All over the United States
there are Natural History Associa-
tions. Why could not the subscri-
bers to the Young Ornithologist start
a corresponding club and have mem-
bers in all cities and towns to take
notes of all they see? These notes
could be published in the YOUNG
ORNITHOLOGIST, and would in my
opinion be very instructive. I am
willing to report for this town and
vicinity. Let us hear from all inter-
ested in this matter. All who want
to join send notice to the publisher of
the Y. O., and let it be a success.

L. O. PINDAR, Hickman, Ky.

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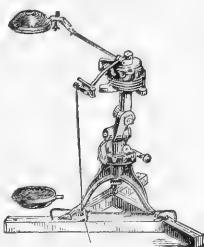
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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JANUARY, 1886.

NO. 9.

For the Young Ornithologist.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL.

Bubo Virginianus.

One of the largest and most common of our nocturnal birds of prey is the Great Horned Owl, or as it is often called, the "cat owl." In the winter the dismal hoot of this lonely bird is a familiar sound, to those who live in the country, as it echoes from forest to forest and is echoed back again by its dusky mate.

During the summer of 1885 I kept a fine specimen of this species in confinement nearly three months, during which time I had ample means for studying its habits; but it grew so vicious and ugly that I was at length forced to kill it. Although appearing so clumsy and awkward, its quickness was remarkable. I have often thrown living rats into his apartment, but he would pounce upon them before they could get out of the way and dispatch them with one pinch of his powerful mandibles.

Adult birds of this species are from twenty to twenty-five inches in length, and the prevailing colors are cinnamon-brown and black, but the plumage is so various in different specimens that it is difficult to describe them; some of them exhibit considerable white.

The most conspicuous objects are the ear-tufts, or "horns" which, when erect, are from one and a half to two and a half inches in length. The huge, blazing eyes, with their bright yellow iris, and expanding pupils, are worthy of no little attention.

In the latter part of February or early in March they build their nests in a cavity in the trunk or limb of a tree, or in a deserted hawk's nest, and deposit from two to four spherical eggs, of a dirty, white color.

Its occasional attacks on the poultry yard makes it the enemy of the farmer, as it carries off not only young chickens but full grown turkeys and geese.

FRED S. ODLE,

Lapeer, Mich.

THE GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH.

Siurus Auricapillus.

This species receives its name from the orange-yellow plumage that adorns the crown of its head; it is also known as the oven bird, from the peculiar manner in which the nest is formed. Its length is between six and seven inches, and the plumage on the upper parts of the body and wings are olive-green, with a tinge of yellowish-brown. The head has a black strip on each side of the crown; the lower parts of the body are white, the breast and sides being spotted with black. It is a summer resident of the Canadian wild-woods, scarcely ever seen out of the deep shades of the primeval forest. Nor does it return in spring to its native haunts until the trees are putting forth their emerald garb, and summer is once more about to assume its reign over our fields and woodlands: then perched at a considerable elevation among the concealing foliage it greets the wanderer in the wilderness,

the greater part of the day, with its ringing notes, which though not tuneful nor melodious, and consisting of but two notes, yet, from their rapid repetition and the animation of the performer, are pleasing to the ear; these notes begin low, rising as they proceed, until the solo ends. This song resembles the syllables "*Wich-ell*" repeated quickly with a ringing intonation four or five times, then a pause ensues for about a minute, when it is repeated and thus continues for over an hour at a time, when the demands of hunger or the calls of other duties requires its attention for a time.

Its favorite habitat is the dry, hard-wood timber lands, where, among the low, thick underbrush it loves to glean its insect food and conceal its curious leafy nest; but as these natural resorts are yearly becoming more limited, it suits itself to circumstances and makes its summer home in the more low and scrubby tamerack and black ash woods. It seldom frequents the pine and cedar woods, or the second-growth timbered tracks, which are the favorite resorts of some of the larger thrushes.

The nest is placed upon the ground, a slight hollow is made among the dry leaves and over this a kind of canopy, or hut-like roof, is formed with dry leaves, stalks and grass, and lined with fine dry grass, leaves and hairs.

The set of eggs, usually five in number, are of a clear white, spotted, sepecially toward the larger end, with red spots. Its nest is so well concealed — not only from the mode of its formation, and the materials of which it is composed, but also from the fact that it is generally placed among the thick bushes, or on the side of a small bank—that it is not easy to discover it. The bird sits close and seldom flushes until almost trodden upon, and when startled

runs along the ground for some distance, with her wings and tail spread out, in order to intice the intruder after her; but to the practical ornithologist this action on the part of the bird only serves to betray what it tries to conceal. If the young are in the nest, and should one of them utter a note of alarm, both parent birds immediately appear upon the scene, flutter around the invader, and by their distressed notes, as well as actions, exhibit their deep and mutual solicitude.

Though shy and retired in its habits, this species is pretty well known to every Rambler in the wild-woods of Ontario. It arrives in this province about the end of May, and after a sojourn of between three and four months departs southward.

From our early settlement in the back-woods, when the greater part of "*Western Canada*" was still an almost unbroken wilderness, we have been familiar with the song-notes and peculiar nesting habits of this interesting bird, which for many years were known to us as the "*wood bird*," and we have often noted that it chooses for its nesting-place a site near a cow-path, along which it gathers fine hairs to line the cradle of its progeny, and that the door of its nest often faced the west.

Since then I have noted the bird or listened to its pleasing song in every section that I have visited, and when I rambled about the old Falls of Niagara in the month of June, a few years ago, among the few birds whose solos enlivened the woods of Goat Island, I noticed those of the golden-crowned thrush.

W. L. KELLS,
Listowel, Ont.

We have changed the style of our paper somewhat, but will give our readers more matter than formerly.

A VACATION TRIP.

Or. Two Young Naturalists in New Hampshire.

By HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER V.

The first thing George did on arriving at the house was to throw open all the doors and windows, to let in the fresh air, as the house had that peculiar musty smell to be found in houses that have been shut up for some time. The next thing to be done was to unload the carriage, and the articles it contained were piled up promiscuously on the floor of the dining room. They then turned their attention to the barn, which was finally opened after a good deal of prying and pulling to get off a board that was nailed across the large doors. Partly on account of this precaution in securely fastening the barn, everything inside was found in its place. The hay-loft contained quite a lot of hay, and there was quite a pile of straw on the floor to be used as bedding for the horse. The wood-shed had not fared so well, as it was completely broken down, probably by the heavy storms of the previous winter, and as the wood was somewhat decayed the boys used it for fire-wood during their stay.

A well near the house furnished them excellent water for their cooking, but their drinking water they procured from a mineral spring, a short distance from the house, which was noted for its medicinal qualities, being strongly impregnated with sulphur, iron, magnesia, etc., and both boys had determined to drink it exclusively during their stay. Edward at first did not like it, declaring it tasted like gunpowder, but after a few days he got over his dislike for it and even became quite fond of it. This spring is situated at the

foot of a ridge which extends to some distance to the southwest, but at a short distance from it, to the northeast, it is divided by a large brook, which flows into the Contoocook river. At the place the brook had worn its way through the ridge a mill-dam has been laid, thus forming a small pond, which contains a great many pickerel, pout and dace, and probably trout years ago, but doubtless the pickerel have exterminated them all by this time. In the brook, however, a fair number of trout may be caught at the present time.

To return to the boys, by the time they had unpacked everything and arranged things to suit them it was nearly dark, so they went inside, lighted the lamp (they had only one), started a fire and proceeded to cook their supper; the table was set and the remainder of their lunch placed upon it.

"How much tea shall I put in, a handful?" inquired Edward who was standing by the stove, teapot in hand.

"I guess not," replied George, laughing, "unless you want it strong enough to bear up an egg, a teaspoonful will make it strong enough for us."

While the tea was steeping, George cut open the rolls they had brought and dipping them quickly into hot water, put them in the oven for a few minutes. In about five minutes the boys seated at the table eating delicious hot rolls, cold corn-beef, and cheese, with a cup of fragrant Japanese and oolong tea for dessert. The boys had the hearty appetite always found in young people who have not spoiled their natural appetites by over indulgence or eating too fast or at irregular hours, thus bringing on dyspepsia, that common disease among the American people at large.

(To be Continued.)

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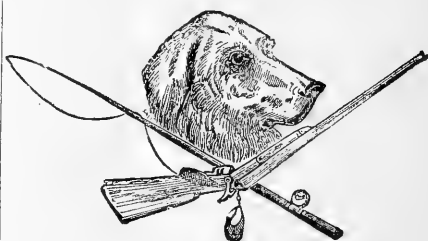
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The Bailey collection of eggs, numbering about 7,000 specimens, has been purchased by Mr. N. K. Jessup and presented by him to the American Museum of Natural History, where it is now being arranged on the top floor. The collection is valued at \$4,000.

We have received the advance sheets of Davie's New Check-list and Key to the Nests and eggs of North American Birds, and are more than pleased with it, and think it is an indispensable guide to the identification of the eggs of our birds.

It will contain about 200 pages, and illustrated with seven full page engravings. We will give full particulars in our next issue, and extra inducements to those ordering copies of us.



ROD AND GUN.

SHOOTING WATERFOWL AT NIGHT.

I am going to tell the readers of the *Young Ornithologist* of a little pleasurable duck hunt after dark, which I was fortunate enough to participate in a few weeks ago.

A couple of my young friends had been in the habit of starting on a hunting trip just at dusk in the evening, and returning home about midnight with goodly sacks of game; at least they said they had returned home about that time, and the game they would exhibit the next morning was undisputable evidence of the latter part of statement. Now, what struck me as peculiar about these excursions, was that they were always undertaken on the darkest of nights, when there was not the least vestige of moon or stars. This puzzled me, for I had often gone "moonlight hunting," for then the ducks could be plainly seen.

But I could not see just where my friends would get in their good night's shooting, when it would be as "dark as a stack of black cats," as the poet or somebody else has said. When I would interrogate them on this subject, they would only indulge in a sly, complacent smile, and say the way I could find out was to accompany them. The very next night was a dark, cloudy chaos of atmosphere and fog, so thick, in fact, you could al-

most cut it in slices and hang it up to dry. So my friends true to their promise drove over in their spring wagon, with guns and ammunition piled recklessly in heap on the floor.

I noticed they had a box of chalk—common school crayons—and a huge bull's eye reflecting lantern, but I said not a word but resolved to await developments. It was a drive of about five miles to the lake selected for the night's work, and within half an hour from the time I stepped into the wagon we were pulling up at a clump of trees on the borders of the lake.

(Concluded in next number.)

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange notices not exceeding 40 words will be inserted free in this column to all subscribers.

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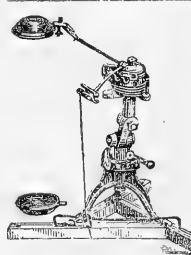
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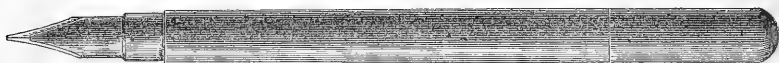
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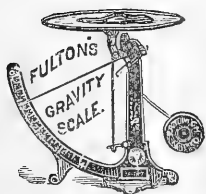
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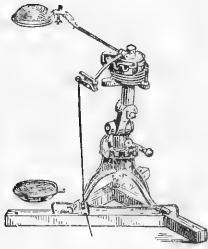
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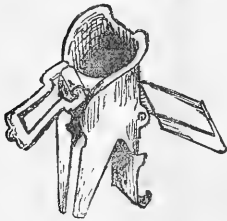
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Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY, 1886.

NO. 10.

THE GREAT GRAY OWL.

(*ULULA CINEREA*.)

This bird is a rare winter visitant. October 13, 1885. I received a fine specimen from a citizen of Eaw Claire for mounting. Taken all together, it is an extraordinary looking bird. The small eyes combined with the great size of the facial disks giving it a very peculiar expression.

The beak is light yellow; claws black; iris straw; facial disk four inches in diameter, marked with about fifteen concentric circles; back, wings and tail marked all over in a peculiar pattern with chocolate brown, and whitish feathers on the breast, six inches long, indistinctly bared longitudinally; throat ragged white; length two feet; tail twelve inches; expanse fifty-five inches.

It has the appearance of a very large bird, but the body is really but little, if any, larger than that of a Partridge. This Owl breeds in the far North, and is said to live chiefly on small birds.

E. L. Brown, Durand, Wis.

A WEEK'S COLLECTING.

May 28.—I secured a fine set of eight eggs of the Black-capped Chickadee and a set of four Blue Jays'. The latter were partly incubated, but I managed to blow them.

May 29.—Found a nest of the Baltimore Oriole with four eggs, a set of Green Heron's eggs and two Blue Jay's nests, one containing four and the other five eggs. There was a vast difference in the color of the two sets.

May 31.—Did not find any thing worth recording.

June 1.—Was a red-letter day with me. I found a nest of the Pine-creeping Warbler, about ten feet up in a pitch-pine, containing four pretty eggs; they were white with a roseate hue and spotted with different shades of brown, rather more thickly at the larger end. I also came across a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak with two eggs, which I secured as I was doubtful of being able to find the place again. On the way home I secured a set of three Brown Thrasher's eggs, and a nest of the Song Sparrow containing four eggs and one of the Cowbird.

June 3.—Took a set of four Chestnut-sided Warbler's eggs.

June 4.—A set of Purple Finch's eggs and found a nest of the Cedar Waxwing just completed.

These were not all I found, of course, but were the most important. I am eagerly looking forward to next spring, when I hope to add a few more varieties to my collection.

H. C. W.

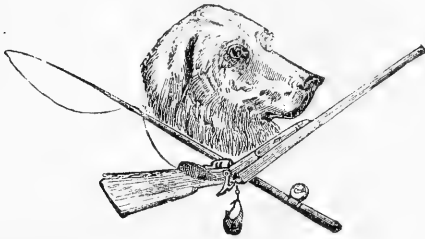
Speaking upon the water supply of ancient Roman towns, Prof. W. H. Corfield has presented the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain a strong argument against attempts to purify water that has once become foul, commending the wisdom of the Romans in drawing the water for their towns from unquestionable pure sources.

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ROD AND GUN.



SHOOTING WATERFOWL AT NIGHT.

Although I could see nothing, I could hear the ducks out on the lake, quacking, fluttering and whistling at a great rate, and seemingly enjoying themselves in the secure cover of darkness. As I stood there, while my companions were making preparations, my reflections took a meditative turn, and as I listened to the ducks enjoying themselves in their sports, all heedless and unsuspecting of the impending doom soon to overtake some of their number, I was forcibly reminded of the old adage: "In the midst of life and joy we are in the jaws of death." My reflections were suddenly interrupted by one of my companions slapping me on the shoulder, with a jolly "Already Al., old boy, come on!" I followed him to the water's edge and took an inventory of our stock. We had moored close to the bank a large, flat, skull-movement duck boat and in the stem was placed a brilliant headlight, which threw a dazzling light for a distance of a couple of hundred yards in advance of the boat, while the chalk I have perviously spoken of was utilized on their gun sights, and it being smeared along the gun barrel rendering it very distinct and avoids the dazzling appearance so troublesome in night shooting.

We were all soon aboard, and I agreed to do the propelling for a while and watch my companions do the

shooting part of the programme. We had skulied but a short distance when one of my friends whispered to me to veer a little to the right and go easy. I complied with his request, and was just wondering what he had seen, when bang! went his fowling-piece, and on looking ahead I saw a couple of large birds fluttering and kicking in plain view of us, as they lay in the broad path of light thrown out in our front.

"I got them, and they are a couple of old Redheads, too," shouted my companion.

Sure enough, on securing our game I saw they were a fine brace of old drake Redheads—a splendid beginning—and I already began to consider myself an old hand at the business, and able to kill as many ducks, with the same show, as they would.

The next victim was a worthless old coot, which was foolish enough to come sailing along right across the path of light, and fell before the unerring aim of one of my companions.

"It was shot by mistake, however," said he, "and plague take the luck anyhow; there I went and roused up a whole flock of Mallards, just by making a break at that blasted old mud-hen."

We did not stop to take this last acquisition on board, but rowed on for a quarter of a mile or so, when all of a sudden bang! went the gun of my other friend, with the good luck to secure a fine large Pintail. Thus ran our luck, and in the course of a few hours we had bagged over a dozen fine ducks, of all kinds, from the little wiry Ruddy Duck up to the majestic old drake Mallard.

I now took my turn at the stem and succeeded admirably, being lucky enough to procure two Coots, one Thick billed Grebe and one poor, forlorn Spoon bill, which I think took pity on me and committed suicide just to save my reputation. Well I expect to do better next time; the reader must remember that I was somewhat verdant, as this

was my first experience of the kind.

All in all it was a very pleasant pastime. The ducks seemed to be either dazzled and loth to fly when the light is thrown upon them, or else they are not the least alarmed by its appearance and do not realize their danger until the sharp crack of the gun accompanied with its murderous missiles informs them too forcibly that it is time they should be moving on.

Thus have I narrated a pleasant night's hunt which I intend very soon to repeat; and I might suggest to some of my gunning friends, under whose notice this article should chance to fall, that if so situated they try their luck in a little trip of this kind and let us hear from them as regards their experience.

A. M. SHIELDS,
Los Angeles, Cal.

THE NEW ASSOCIATION,
TO BE CALLED THE
Young Ornithologists'
ASSOCIATION.

In our December number, Mr. L. O. Pindar proposed to form a corresponding club, composed of the subscribers of the "Young Ornithologist," who shall report from their sections anything of interest which comes under their observations, relating to Ornithology or Oology. Quite a number have responded from different parts of the country, and we publish below a few of the letters:

"I have read over carefully Mr. Pindar's proposal in your paper, and think it is a first-rate idea, I will do what I can to aid it by reporting from this vicinity. I propose the name of the "Young Ornithologist's Association," or the "Y. O. A.," as I think it would be a suitable one."

H. C. WARD,
Needham, Mass.

"In the December number of the "Y.

O." I saw a proposition to start a Natural History Association among the subscribers of your paper, I think it would be a good plan, and if it is decided to start one, I would be very glad to belong. There is not much to report here in the city, but I think I can report quite well for Farmington, Me., where I spend my summers, and where I have lived until a few years ago. I am very much interested in bird life."

Yours truly, J. B. RICHARDS,
Fall River, Mass.

"Noting the suggestion of Mr. Pindar in the Young Ornithologist I say, let us form a club by all means. I am sure that there are two or three, at least, in every town who are interested in the subject, and who could form a small club, and elect one to report for them all and send the report in to your paper for publication. I propose to call the association after your paper."

G. E. C.,
Jersey City, N. J.
"I think Mr. Pindar's ideas are splendid. Let us have a corresponding club by all means. I will attempt to give notes from this place."

R. A. GREEN,
Anson, Texas.
"I spend my summers at Beverley Farms, and will send you in notes of anything of interest that comes under my observation."

M. S., Boston, Mass.
"Anything I discover that I think will be of interest to your readers I will report to you from here."

J. A.,
West Newbury, Mass.
"Shall endeavor to form a club here at once, and report to you."

S. J. L.,
San Francisco, Cal.
"I know of but one other person here interested in Ornithology besides myself, but we will try and send in something monthly."

F. E. W.,
Rock Island, Ill.
We have received other communications, but have not the space to publish them at present. We hope that all of our subscribers will report to us each month so that we may have condensed items of interest from every state in the

Union.

A VACATION TRIP,

OR, TWO YOUNG NATURALISTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY HARRY ROLAND.

CHAP. VI.

The next morning the boys were up by sunrise, and after a hearty breakfast of corn cakes, corn-beef and coffee, they began to talk over their plans for the day. Edward wanted to go off trout fishing at once, as he had been down to the brook the night before, and expressed the opinion to George that it was a splendid place for trout. But George said they must drive over to J—, the nearest town, about three miles distant, to get some provisions, as they had only a little corn meal and a few rolls, the grain for the horse was almost all gone, and there were a few other things to get. They decided to drive over to the village in the forenoon, and then go fishing after they got back. They had a pleasant drive, and after procuring the articles desired, drove home again. When they arrived it was almost one o'clock, and they immediately proceeded to prepare their dinner. After they had cooked and eaten it they went out to dig some worms for their fishing excursion. While they were thus engaged they heard a Field Plover whistle in a pasture a little ways from their house. As soon as George heard it he handed the hoe to Edward, and said, "Here, you finish digging the worms, I am going over there to see if I can't find its nest, and then I will be back again."

"Suppose you don't get back in time?" inquired Edward.

"Well then you go on, and I'll overtake you," replied George, and climbing over the garden wall he was soon lost to view among the small pines and high-bush blueberries.

Edward finished digging the worms, and taking his fishpole started down the

brook. The fishing up near the dam was not very good so that nearly everyone went down the bank for a little ways before they commenced fishing. George had told him of this before hand so he was profiting by his advice. We will leave Edward for the present and return to George, who had reached the pasture from which the whistle had come, and was now lying under a tree listening intently for a repetition of the sound. After waiting some time and hearing nothing he became impatient, and started across the field with very little hope of finding the bird. He had travelled across the field once, and was returning, when suddenly a bird fluttered along the ground ahead of him as if wounded. George was well acquainted with the habits of birds, therefore, instead of pursuing the bird, he dropped his hat down where he had first seen the bird, and was now hunting for the nest in a circle around it. After quite a long search he finally discovered the nest containing four beautiful eggs. Taking the eggs up carefully he started back as there was hardly need of his identifying the bird with which he was so well acquainted, having often shot them in the fall. The owner of the nest was standing on a stone wall, occasionally uttering its peculiar whistle which soon brought its mate, who perched on the top of a tree near the nest. These plover will often alight on trees during the breeding season or when any one approaches their nest, though they do not seem to do so at any other time. George carried the eggs back to the house, and sitting down in his room, wrote off an account of the nest and eggs in his note book, and then commenced to measure them, previous to filling out a data blank. He had forgotten all about his fishing excursion in his delight at finding a new nest of eggs.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The remains of a mammoth were recently discovered near Geneva, N. Y.

The Young Ornithologist.

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Our contributors, one and all, will please accept our sincere thanks for the articles sent in last month.

It is the fault of the printer, not the editor, that this paper is not on time. Next issue will be a daisy and on time.

In our next issue we shall publish several interesting articles, one of which will be "The Care and Arrangement of Birds' Eggs."

Mr. Davie's new Egg Check List will not be issued until February. We will give a detailed description in our March number.

Several of our subscribers have written to us to discontinue their exchange notices, as they had run out of specimens and letters were still coming in.

Mr. T. D. Perry informs us that Mr. Geo. Noble, of Savannah, Ga., found a nest containing young Ground Doves on the 10th of October, 1885. This was unusually late nesting.

THE WATER THRUSH.

(SIURUS NÆVIUS.)

This species, though not numerous, is, however, generally met with in all suitable localities of Ontario, from the early days of May until the first of September. Its favorite habitat is low marshy woods, where pools of stagnant water remain throughout the summer season, and where the under-wood is not dense; along the margins of muddy creeks and among the grasses that border ponds and lakelets. In general its habits are solitary, and there seldom is more than one of them seen at the same time or place, and it always shuns the presence of man as soon as it becomes aware of his approach, and rarely is it known to visit human habitations, villages or cultivated fields. Its notes, though pleasant and cheery, are not remarkable for either their melody, power or continuance, being only the repetition of a few warbling notes, while its tones of alarm and disapprobation, are a sharp "chip" repeated in an angry voice when the environs of its nest are invaded, thus revealing to the ornithologist a secret that might otherwise remain unknown, for its nesting place is generally well concealed and the deep, chilly water and tangled under-wood of its surroundings are not often penetrated at the nesting period except by the Indian hunter, the student of nature or the oological collector, who, aware of its nesting habits, is in quest of its eggs. Its food appears to consist almost wholly of those species of insects that inhabit the stagnant, muddy waters where it makes its summer home, and which it finds on the margins or floating on the water, and to procure which it often wades up to its breast in water, and when standing on a half-sunken log or running along the margins of pools the hinder-part of the body is constantly moving up and down with a wagging motion like that of the Sand-piper.

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THE
Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MARCH, 1886.

NO. II.

For The Young Ornithologist.

ORIOLE'S CALL.

In front of my chamber window,
In a maple slender and straight,
Where an oriole is building and calling to
its mate.

The trees are just unfolding their leaves of
tender green,
And in the top-most branches its nest is
plainly seen.

They wake me every morning, just at the
break of day,

And to my sleepy listning ear, these words
they seem to say :

"Kate! Kate! you must wait till the leaves
all grow,"

And she: "Willie! Willie! hear me."

So they fly back and forth with a string or
a hair,

And in the deep nest they arrange it with
care,

While the warm sun shines still,
And the clouds float and sail o'er the brow
of "snake hill,"

Yet he sing the same lay :

"Kate! Kate! you must wait till the leaves
all grow."

And I wonder what reason there is for delay
When the house is all ready for use,

Or why the young husband will to her say :

"You must wait," and the bright spring-
time lose,

Or what does she want her Willie to hear ;
Of what does she wish to complain,

That she calls her Willie whenever he's near,
And his answer is always the same :

"Kate! Kate! you must wait till the leaves
all grow."

And she: "Willie! Willie! hear me."

Ah! I see! They have built at the top of
the tree,

That the soft winds their cradle may rock.
And so far from the ground, no bad boy

may see,
For their doors have no key nor lock,
And over the nest, no roof, but the blue

Of the great arch of Heaven covers all,
But the leaves form a shelter from the sun
and the dew,
And that's why our oriole calls,
"Kate! Kate! you must wait till the leaves
all grow."

And she: "Willie! Willie! hear me."

G. S.

WILSON'S PLOVER.

This beautiful and handsome bird is
a constant resident with us, at least I
have found them as late as November
and as early as February. So I am
positive that some few at least remain
with us all the season. They are strictly
a sea coast bird, being confined to
the South Atlantic, and always laying
on the "shingles" of the beach. I
think that there must be some error
about their eggs being collected inland.
Their northern range, during
the breeding season, according to Stur-
der, is Massachusetts; and why they
breed inland when they are strictly a
sea-coast bird I cannot understand.
During the month of June, 1884, I
went on a collecting trip to one of our
sea islands and had the good fortune to
find them breeding in great numbers in
company with the Least Tern (very
much in the same manner as far as
nest was concerned). The nest is only
a slight hollow scooped in the sand,
containing a few pieces of sea weed,
but more generally the bare sand. I
picked up some eighteen sets in two

days, and in no case did I find more than three eggs to a set, and I am fully convinced that is all they lay, as incubation was far advanced in nearly all the sets. I have carefully looked over some sets that I have and find them all very much alike, and of a pale clay color spotted with dark brown and black spots and small flashes with markings of purple. Davie, in his Check-list, says he fails to see any lines, and gives the size as 1.76 by 1.28, and says the sets in his cabinet is as follows; 1.83 by 1.29, 1.83 by 1.29, 1.75 by 1.28 and 1.64 by 1.28. I have three sets before me, and cannot find them anything like his in size; I take the largest sets I have and they are as follows, 1.37 by .99, 1.82 by .98, and 1.40 by 1.00. Mine were all collected on the "shingle" of the beach. A skin of one of these birds shot by Mr. Geo. Noble, of this place, is now in the Smithsonian Institute, registered as Wilson's Plover, and numbered 16,176 leaving little doubt about it being anything else.

T. D. Perry,
Savannah, Ga.

Nov. 9th, '85.

WATER THRUSH.

CONCLUDED.

Although from our early settlement in what was then the Canadian backwoods, I had been well acquainted with the appearance of this inhabitant of the wilderness, for often when in search of cattle or otherwise rambling in the forest, I frequently came suddenly to the bank of a creek or the margin of a pool where this species might be seen at work or hastily seeking concealment; yet until but a few years ago I had no personal knowledge of its nest or eggs. In my

early studies of our wild birds, when I began to distinguish one species from another, observing several nests of what I have since identified as those of the Winter Wren, but only seeing the Wagtail in the vicinity, and supposing it to be the owner, I named it the Moss-builder; afterwards as I discovered my mistake, I called it the Wood Wagtail, but from Ross's "Birds of Canada." I learned it to be the Water Thrush.

In the early part of June, 1882, I was out on a collecting trip in a piece of low woods west of this town, and in examining the up-turned root of a large tree, beneath which was a pool of water, a bird suddenly darted out and plunged into the water, from which, however, it made a hasty exit, and disappeared among some brushwood. Discovering the nest, I found it to contain four nearly incubated eggs and a young Cowbird just hatched. This nest, placed in a deep cavity, was so like that of the Jinco, as were also the eggs, that I would have believed them to have belonged to that species, had not the owner returned and coming close I was certain of her identity as a Water Thrush. The next spring on the 21st of May, I was crossing a piece of low wood on my own farm—Wild-Wood, when the notes of a Water Thrush attracted my attention, and inferring she had a nest in the vicinity, I examined a turned up root near by, and found on a kind of shelf about a foot above the water a nest with two fresh eggs; three days later I returned and found the full set of five eggs, which I took and they are now in my collection. This nest was formed of dry leaves, moss, a species of lichen, and lined with fine hair. The eggs are of a clear white hue, mottled (especially towards the large end) with bran colored spots.

The next season I saw in the same root a nest containing four young of this species and a young cowbird. The past spring being anxious to secure a set of these eggs to exchange, I revisited the same root but found that it had been torn down. About two weeks after in another turned up root I found a nest in the course of formation, and from this I secured a fine set of five eggs. On the 10th of June I saw another nest of this species in the root of a fallen tree, situated on a piece of dry hard woodland, which contained four eggs which, however, were in an advanced state of incubation. The Water Thrush, or Water Wagtail, as it is also called, is about six inches in length; the plumage on the upper parts is olive brown, beneath it is sulphur yellow, brightest on the abdomen; the breast has lines of dark spots.

W. L. KELLS,
Listowel, Ont.

A VACATION TRIP;

OR, TWO YOUNG NATURALISTS IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

—
BY HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER VII.

Edward walked down the brook for some distance, crossed a meadow, and entered a large woods that overshadows the brook on each side for some distance. This place George had informed him was the best for fishing. Along the edge of the brook where it flowed through the woods was a perfect tangle of wild grape vines, black berry bushes, etc., through which Edward had considerable difficulty in forcing his way, but he finally came to a more open place, where a drift of logs across the stream

seemed a likely place for trout. As the water was covered with foam he did not have to be so careful in approaching as is generally necessary, and on dropping his hook down through the foam it was snapped up instantly and Edward pulled up a handsome little trout about six inches long, and three others were soon added to it before they stopped biting, when he moved on to another place a short distance below. So engrossed in the sport had he become that he in turn had forgotten about George, whom he had expected would soon join him, and he was quite surprised a short time after, on looking down the brook to see George there quietly fishing. Edward hallooed to him, but the noise of the water drowned his voice so that George did not hear him until he was quite near. On Edward's expressing his surprise in meeting him there he said that he had walked down the road to where the brook crossed it, and then followed it up to where Edward was. George had caught five trout and Edward eleven.

"We have got enough, hav'n't we?" inquired Edward.

"Yes," replied George, "enough for supper and breakfast."

"Well, then let's take a short cut for home, as it is almost sunset now," said Edward.

The boys wound up their lines, and had just started homeward when they heard the song of a bird near them and on stopping and listening they observed it came from a small pine tree nearby. George pronounced it to be an Indigo Bunting, and on their approaching nearer they could plainly see the brilliant blue and black of a fine specimen of a male Indigo Bunting. The bird evinced much anxiety as they drew near.

"It's got a nest some where about

here, I'm sure," exclaimed George.

The boys immediately began to search for the nest. Edward was the lucky one this time, for in a few minutes he called to George that he had found it, and George coming up found him engaged in examining a nest in a small raspberry bush. The nest contained four eggs, white with a bluish tinge, and about the size of the Red-eyed Vireo's. The nest was made of dead grass, leaves, etc., and lined with fine straws and hair. This was the first set of eggs of this species that Edward had found, so he carefully secured them and the nest and carried them home.

"By the way, George, did you have any success this morning?" asked Edward, as they were going into the house.

"Yes," replied George, "I found the Upland Plover's nest I went after."

"Is that the name of it?" inquired Edward.

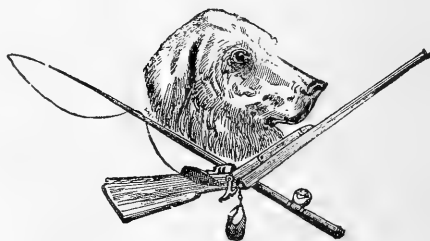
"No it isn't the right name; it is called Bartram's Sandpiper; but here are the eggs, aren't they handsome?"

The eggs they were looking at were pale buff, heavily spotted and blotched with umber and a light yellowish-brown; they averaged about 1.80x1.26, and as they were partially incubated George had to drill a rather large hole and extract the contents with an embryo hook. After they had admired them sufficiently George put them away, and went out to water the horse. In a few minutes Edward (who was preparing to blow the eggs he had secured) heard him calling and on going out met George who said that he had called him to witness the beautiful sunset. The sun had just sunk behind the mountain, and the sky near the horizon appeared like a vast sea of gold; several dark clouds higher up were edged with gold, and others in the south-

west were of different shades of orange, salmon and pale rose. One of the upper clouds had separated, forming an opening resembling a Gothic window, through which Venus shown with silvery light—the only visible star. On a hill between them and the west were a row of evergreen, maple and oak trees, whose branches darkly outlined against the golden sky resembled fine silhouette work. Only one sound broke the peaceful stillness—the bell-like notes of the Hermit Thrush.

TO BE CONTINUED.

ROD AND GUN.



Of late I have had numerous inquiries from amateur sportsmen in regard to the size of loads, quality and quantity of ammunition used, etc., for various species of game. Now this is a question which can never be definitely answered with regard to any fixed or regular rule, as the shooting depends upon various almost illimitable conditions; viz., the bore of the gun, the quality of its finish and make-up, the length of its barrels, and the quality of ammunition used. As I am no experienced professional sportsman I can only answer from my own individual experience; with reference only to the conditions upon which I have done my ordinary shooting. My gun is a top-lever action, choke bore, 10 gauge, Parker Bros. fine twist breech-loader. My favorite and most successful loads for duck shooting at ordinary distances (say forty to ninety yards) is

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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A Monthly devoted to the promotion of the Sciences of Ornithology and Oology.

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—o—

C. W. Swallow, of Tyngsboro, Mass., has gone to Florida to spend the remainder of the winter.

—o—

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—o—

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—o—

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as follows: $4\frac{3}{4}$ drams of any good medium quality powder, capped by two pink edge wads, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. best chilled No. 6 shot and one black edge Eley's wad. If I am shooting paper cartridges I always crimp them; if brass cartridges I always use wads of from one to two sizes larger than the gauge of the gun; this ensures a snug fit and dispenses with the annoying danger of having the wad work loose and liberate the shot. For close rabbit and quail shooting I use about two-thirds the size of the above load, and for No. 6 I substitute No. 8 shot. Now this is a fair average of the loads which I shoot most successfully, but of course the average sportsman must make personal experiments with his individual fowling piece, and thus satisfy himself just what size and kind of a load can be most successfully used in his gun. A. M. Shields,

Los Angeles, Cal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM KANSAS.

On the night of Jan. 13th I secured a fine specimen of the Great Horned Owl in a steel trap, which had been set for several days to catch Crows. I placed upon a post a large piece of pork and put the trap on this and fastened it firmly to the post. The Crows knew too much to get caught. This is the first instance I have heard of Owls eating the flesh of the hog. Hunger must have driven him to it. G. F. B.,

Beattie, Kansas.

FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

I secured a set of three Black-throated Green Warbler's eggs June 27th. They were creamy white with reddish-brown spots and a few indistinct purple markings. The nest was in a pine tree quite high up. C. E. S.,

Peterboro, N. H.

EXCHANGES and WANTS

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F. G. B., Beattie, Kansas.

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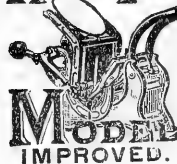
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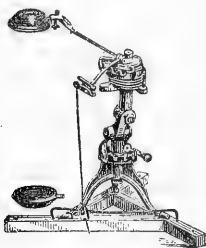
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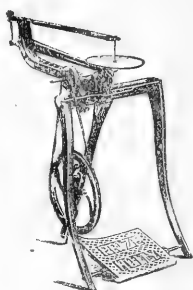


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THE Young Ornithologist.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1886.

NO. 12.

A FLORIDA CORMORANT ROOKERY.

BY J. C. CAHOON.

On the morning of April 24th, 1884, a catboat was dashing swiftly along, off the south-west coast of Florida, before a fresh wind and fair tide. The boat contained my brother and I, who were returning from a winter's collecting trip about Charlotte Harbor. It was a typical Florida day, the sun was shining brightly overhead, a cool, crisp salt breeze blowing, with miles of blue water and hundreds of small white-caps. On the shore side we were passing pines, mangroves, palmettoes and bayous. On the other side the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico stretched away for miles with now and then a white sail or the smoke of a distant steamboat. I was watching the shore, and had just sighted the buoy in the channel off the Homosassa River, when my brother called my attention to two small islands ahead, over which large numbers of birds could be seen flying. There are many small islands and oyster-reefs about the entrance of the Homosassa River and vicinity, and the two over which the birds were hovering were the outer ones, being situated about two miles from the mainland and one mile out from the other islands. We were on the lookout

for heron and seabird rookerys, and so headed our boat for the first island. As we approached the island the water began to get shoal, and we were obliged to keep a sharp watch for oyster reefs which were so abundant along this part of the coast. After tacking, keeping off, and not without running aground several times, we got within ten yards of the island and anchored. The air was dark with birds, which proved to be frigates, or man-of-war birds, and as we waded ashore hundreds left the mangrove trees and bushes.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE CARE AND AR- RANGEMENT OF EGGS.

Noticing C. W. Swallow's inquiry in your November issue, as to the best article to lay eggs on in the cabinet, I will give my plan, which is followed by some, if not all the largest collectors in the country. Sawdust is bad in every way. It is apt to get into the eggs, and in the case of some very delicate shells, even that weight may be sufficient to break them if they are frequently handled. Besides this it looks bad and litters up the drawers. Cotton has not these objections, still it is not desirable. The simplest way is, to get trays made of pasteboard, of a size that will fit into the drawers, and not too large to hold

the sets. Place the eggs in these and they will be safe and show off well. The trays should be about half an inch deep. Small labels printed on cards with same matter as on paper, should be filled out and placed at the back of the tray containing the eggs, between the sides of the trays. This holds it in place, and on opening the drawer you at once see what is in each tray without handling the eggs to get at the larger paper label which is possible, folded and laid in the bottom of the tray. As to the arrangement, I think the best way is to take Ridgeway's list (1881) and follow that; thus you have thrushes, warblers, etc. all together. If it happens that a small egg by this plan is placed between two larger ones, it is of no consequence, as you know it belongs there according to your system. The trays spoken of can be obtained of advertisers in the *YOUNG ORNITHOLOGIST*, at a cost of 50 cents to \$1.00 per hundred, according to size.

E. H. D.

A VACATION TRIP;

OR, TWO YOUNG NATURALISTS IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY HARRY ROLAND.

CHAPTER VIII.

The next morning was Sunday and the boys spent the time in walking around. They went up to a sand bank nearby and picked up some garnets, of which they found quite a number though somewhat small. Edward also found several maiden-hair ferns, which he pressed in an old pamphlet to carry back with him. Thus they quietly spent their first Sabbath in New Hampshire,

and retired rather early, full of preparations for the next day.

Monday morning at half-past seven we find them starting out for a whole day collecting, with a lunch of bread and butter and boiled eggs in their pockets; they also had their hooks and lines, paper, matches, etc., as they intend to stop at the brook about noon to catch a few trout and cook them. By twelve o'clock they had walked several miles and reached the brook at a point where it is joined by a smaller one. The latter flowed over white sand, and the water was very cool and clear. They caught several trout out of it, but they were very small. The boys then went back to the large brook, where they caught three or four large fish, which was sufficient for their lunch. George soon had them dressed, and Edward made a fire, over which the fish were soon cooking and sending out a most appetizing odor. The boys had not found many nests during the forenoon; the only sets collected being those of the Field Sparrow and Wood Pewee. The latter came very near costing George a bad fall, as the limb on which he was standing broke off, leaving him swinging in the air by one hand, but he contrived to get hold of the limb with the other hand, and drew himself up on to it and got down in safety. One of the eggs rolled out of the nest and was broken, but the remaining three were safely carried home. The nest of the Wood Pewee is a very pretty structure, flat, compactly built and saddled on to a horizontal limb of some tree (in this case an oak), and covered on the outside with lichens, somewhat after the fashion of the Hummingbird, and is nearly as difficult to find. The afternoon was spent pleasantly and profit-

ably, as they secured a set of Nighthawk's eggs (two), a set of four of the Hermit Thrush's, a set of three Song Sparrow's and a nest of some Warbler, which they were unable to identify, but thought it might be the Blue Yellow-back, from the slight glimpse they got of the bird. The eggs of the Nighthawk were very beautiful. The ground color was a light delicate gray, mottled and variegated with dark gray, yellowish-brown and slate; the Hermit Thrush's, pale bluish-green, unspotted; and those of the Warbler were white, spotted lightly at the larger end with reddish-brown. There were four eggs in the set. On the way home, as they were crossing a small bridge a Pewee flew out, and George, who never missed a chance of learning anything about birds, walked out on the planks to the edge of the bridge to look under it, when one of them broke off causing him to fall into the water. The water was not very deep but he got wet through, and had to run all the way home to avoid taking cold.

TO BE CONTINUED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM KENTUCKY.

JANUARY.

7th. Found a Sparrow in the woods frozen to death. I did not notice what kind it was.

8th. Blackbirds first noticed around here.

12th. Caught a Blue Jay (CYANOCITTA CRISTATA) and a Tufted Titmouse (LOPHOPHANES BICOLOR) in a trap in our yard.

13th. Caught a Tufted Titmouse in my trap. These birds are known here by the name of "Tip-top."

14th. Caught a Black-capped Chick-

adee or "Tom-tit" in my trap. I let all these birds go as soon as I had examined them.

16th. Saw a Robin (TURDUS MIGRATORIUS) and a Carrion Crow (CATHARISTA ATRATA). A Balled Eagle was seen by A. J. Taylor.

19th. I saw two Bald Eagles (HALIAETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS). I watched them for some time through a spy-glass.

22nd. Sharp-shinned Hawk (ACCIPITER FUSCUS) seen in our yard.

Saw a Red-headed Woodpecker (MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS) and killed a Black-capped Chickadee (PARUS ATRICAPILLUS).

30th. Killed a Tree Sparrow (SPIZELLA MONTICOLA).

31st. I saw two Mockingbirds (MIMUS POLYGLOTTUS), evidently male and female, in the city cemetery.

L. O. PINDAR, Hinkman, Ky.

FROM MAINE.

July 28th, 1885. I saw a Fox-colored Sparrow and Maryland Yellowthroat to day. The first of these two species I have seen here.

Aug. 10th. I noticed a flock of Bobolinks, numbering a hundred or more. They lit on a barn.

Aug. 30th. I saw the first two Dusky Duck.

Sept. 2nd. While out hunting I saw a Pewee's nest on a shelf in a cabin used in the winter by wood-cutters.

During the winter of '84-'85, a Pileated Woodpecker was seen a number of times, and always on a particular dead tree. A few years ago two birds were shot here late in the fall, which were said to be Arctic Gulls, by a lady taxidermist. They were white, with red feet. Can you tell me their scientific name?

J. B. R., Waterville, Me.

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

The following birds have been seen around the house during the winter : Black-capped Chickadee, White-bellied Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Crow, Blue Jay, Snowbird, Screech Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Goldfinch and Robin. H. C. W.,

Needham, Mass.

While out collecting, June 28th, I found a nest of the Cedar Wax-wing containing four eggs, a nest of the Red-eyed Vireo in which were four young birds, and a nest of the Least Flycatcher containing two eggs. T. B.,

Dover, Mass.

—o—
FROM FLORIDA.

I promised to write you when I got to Florida, but I have not got at it until now.

I left Boston January 13th, on board Chatham for Norfolk, Va. The first thing I noticed of bird life was a number of Gulls that seemed to follow the ship most all the way. I noticed a number of Ducks in the bay before we reached Norfolk, but suppose they were not as plentiful as usual on account of the cold and ice. I reached Norfolk the 15th, about 10 A. M.; and had to wait for the train until the next morning. Field larks were plentiful here and I saw the Yellow-shafted Flicker. Left Norfolk at 6:40 A. M. Saw a large flock of Blackbirds a little ways out. Saw a large flock of Crows in Northern Georgia. Saw ice as far down as Atlanta, Ga. I arrived at Jacksonville January 18th, at about 7:30 A. M. Saw Mockingbirds about the city, also Turkey Buzzards and a few White-bellied Swallows. I left Jacksonville January 22nd, and went to Palatka by rail, and then to

Sanford by steamer. Stopped at Sanford over night and then went to Orlando by rail the next morning. Here the Buzzards, Jays and Mockingbirds are plenty. I also noticed the Ground Doves, Turtle Doves, Chewinks, Red-wing Blackbird, Blue Robin, Red-breast Robin, Kingfisher, and a species of large Grackel. While here I saw a gentleman bring in an otter that he had shot in one of the lakes near town. The fur seemed very good. I went from Orlando to Tampa February 12th, Kissimmee and Lakeland. Find Turtle Doves and Wax wings very plentiful; also saw Robins, Chewink, Brown Thrasher and a few Ducks. Saw trees leaving out, strawberries in bloom, corn up and orange trees budded. On February 15th I went to Tarpon Springs. Saw White Cranes (as they are called here), Crows, Field Larks, Flickers and a number of other species of Woodpeckers. Saw a few Quail here; the first I have seen in the state, but am told they are plentiful in many places. On the 16th I saw a firefly in the evening. I left Tampa at 6 A. M. the following day, and arrived at Ocala about 1 P. M. The land and woods about here look the most like New England of any I have seen. I went to Martin on the 19th, and had a little sport with the gun. Went out a little while in the afternoon and got six squirrels, somewhat like our grey ones, but nearly red and I think a little smaller. Saw a Cardinal Grosbeak here, also Chewinks, Blackbirds, and a small Hawk. February 22nd, I had a little sport with the Quail and succeeded in bagging four in a short time. I got back to Jacksonville on the 23rd, without wasting a charge on deer, alligators or rattlers.

C. W. SWALLOW, Jacksonville, Fla.

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.

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NOTES.

In the Woodstock Reporter is a notice of the longevity of the Mockingbird. A lady of that city having kept one in captivity for seventeen years.

—O—

Several of the notes from corresponding members of the Y. O. Association, as well as one or two other articles were unavoidably left out last month. We shall have to enlarge our paper soon in order to publish more of the many articles which are accumulating on our hands.

—O—

The large work "Oology of New England," by E. A. Capen, is now ready for delivery. It is the finest work on Oology that we have ever seen. The plates are elegantly executed, and colored true to nature; giving the many variations in coloring that exist in so many of the eggs of our New England birds.

Hundreds of bright colored parrots were seen near Brownwood, Texas, last summer (supposed to have come from Central America), something which has never happened before. There were also a great many more crows than usual. Many of the superstitious people of that place consider it an omen of bad luck.

—O—

A society taking its name after the great naturalist, J. J. Audobon, has been established for the purpose of fostering an interest for the protection of wild birds from destruction for millinery and other commercial purposes. Headquarters of the society are at 40 Park Row, New York City. It invites the co-operation of persons in every part of the country.

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What is probably the largest private collection of eggs in the world is in the possession of Mr. William Sloate, of Wembdom, Bridgwater, England. The catalogue of this famous collection, issued in 1884, contains 2,154 species, and embraces eggs from all parts of the world. In turning over its pages one cannot but wonder how so many species could be acquired by one person, and the patience, skill and perseverance requisite must have been astonishing.

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FROM TEXAS.

I received my paper a few days ago and was very glad to see that you had organized the Y. O. Association. The collecting season has opened here. On the 25th of March I took my first nest for 1886. It was the nest of the Western Horned Owl and contained two fine eggs. Since that time I have taken six nests of the same species and each contained two eggs. I think two is a full set in this locality. This species is quite numerous here and build in the hackberry which grows along our water courses. Several species of Hawks are preparing to nest. With many wishes for the success of your paper and the association, I remain,

Yours truly,

ROWAN A. GREEN,

Anson, Texas.

FROM DAKOTA.

White out collecting last year I found a Red-headed Woodpecker's nest in an old stump, about seven feet from the ground. It contained seven egg, the largest of which was 1.05x.75 and the smallest .85x.75, and almost round. I have discovered that the Summer Yellowbird never lays more than three eggs in this locality. I have found 24 different nests and seen many with two and three eggs and found nests with three young birds, but never more. I do not think the Cowbird is here as I haven't seen any birds or eggs. For a cabinet I have found a thread box, such as merchants keep their thread in, is the best. I cover the bottom of the drawer, with soft cotton, and then put in the slats at any desired distance apart. I then cut some of the slats smaller, put them in cross-ways and glue them to the others.

G. B. F. JR., Elk Point, Dak.

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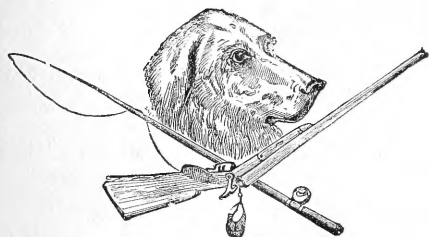
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In the spring, as soon as the ice is out, pickerel can be speared. The best way is by the use of a torch at night, as the light penetrates through the water and shows the fish very plainly. A great many are also shot at this time of year, as they are fond of lying in the shallow portions of the stream to bask in the sun. Get as near as possible without frightening them, and then aim low (a little under the fish) to allow for refraction. Immediately after you fire, the pickerel will rise to the surface stunned or dead. The young sportsman should never put the muzzle of his gun under the water, as it will burst it.

Mr. Kraus's "Biography of Darwin" contains a number of that naturalist's letters.

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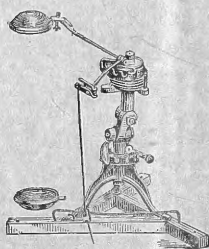
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